

Famine toll rises in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Deaths from starvation and diseases related to malnutrition are increasing in Somalia, target of an international operation to stop famine two years ago, aid agencies in Mogadishu said on Sunday. The famine prevention committee set up by the self-styled president, Mohammad Farah Aideed — whose government is recognised only by Libya — said at the weekend that at least 11,000 families were suffering from starvation and related disease. "The humanitarian situation is worsening, at a time when many of the relief agencies formerly operating in Somalia have withdrawn their staffs," one aid worker said. General Aideed's famine committee said 33 camps for displaced people lacked shelter, food and water. Poor sanitation was escalating the spread of disease. The French agency International Action Against Hunger (AICF) has launched four feeding centres for malnourished children under five in Mogadishu. But they have been unable to save many of the children registered, who have died from diarrhoea, tuberculosis and other diseases.

Volume 19 Number 6035

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1995, JUMADA ULA 8, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

German team begins visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A German delegation led by Hans Klein, president of the Bundestag (parliament), arrived in Amman Sunday on a six-day visit to Jordan. They will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior Jordanian officials. During their stay in Jordan the German parliament members will have meetings with the speakers and the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on topics of concern to the two countries. The delegation groups representatives of the various German political parties.

Guerrilla killed in Israeli shelling

MARAYOUN (AP) — Israeli forces in a South Lebanon border enclave killed a guerrilla Sunday when a group of guerrillas attempted to launch an attack in the area, security sources reported. They said the Hezbollah guerrilla was killed when Israeli tanks fired about seven shells on the Arroub road on the edge of the enclave Israel calls a "security zone." There was no confirmation of any casualty from the Lebanese army or sources at Hezbollah.

No-smoking law takes effect in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Lighting a cigarette in public places may now cost a smoker a 50-dinar (\$166) fine. A two-time offender will pay twice as much under a strict anti-smoking law that took effect Sunday. Smoking has been banned in virtually all closed buildings, except for private homes. The law, passed by parliament last May, also bans smoking in private cars.

Restaurants and coffee shops have to designate smoking areas. Shops are not allowed to sell tobacco to anyone under 21 years old.

Sudan hits Carter

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's Islamist government, which once hailed Jimmy Carter as a peacemaker, called the former US president biased and unfair Sunday after he criticised the regime. Mr. Carter ended an African tour Saturday during which he said that neither Sudan's government nor southern rebels were interested in peace talks to end the 12-year-old civil war. More than 1.3 million people have died in the war and famines caused by the fighting. Madhi Ibrahim, minister of state for presidency, accused Mr. Carter of "losing balance, objectivity, morality and fairness." We thought Carter enjoyed those merits but this position revealed that his endeavours do not differ from the official (American) policy which targets Sudan," he was quoted as saying Sunday in Alkhair Al Yom, a daily Sudanese newspaper. Mr. Carter brokered a ceasefire in Sudan that ended in July. It allowed health projects sponsored by the Carter Foundation of Atlanta to try to eradicate a worm which causes river blindness in the war-torn south.

Turkish speaker resigns, calls for early polls

ANKARA (R) — The speaker of the Turkish parliament resigned on Sunday, calling for early general elections and fueling speculation about a challenge to Prime Minister Tansu Ciller from within her own party.

Husseinettin Cindoruk, an opponent of Ms. Ciller's inside her True Path Party (DYP), agreed with most of Turkey's opposition parties when he said in a statement general elections should be held this year and not be delayed as Ms. Ciller had proposed.

"I feel sad that the current political, social and economic conditions have vindicated my stance of being against a forcible exercise of a fifth year (of the current parliament)," Mr. Cindoruk said in a statement declaring his resignation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية مستقلة تنشر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

18 killed in bus attack in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Militants killed 18 people Sunday and injured 15 others, mostly children, in an attack on a bus south of Algiers. Algerian security forces said. Police killed four members of the group as they made their retreat, the statement said, and "security forces are continuing the search." Among the dead are three young children and a woman, security forces said. Most of the injured are children, it added. The statement blamed the attack on a "terrorist group," language used to refer to militants waging an insurgency. It gave no details as to how the 9 a.m. attack near Laghouat, 325 kilometres directly south of Algiers, was carried out. The attack was one of the deadliest targeting civilians since the start of the insurgency three and a half years ago. The bus was travelling between the towns of Ghicha and Rabta, neighbouring Laghouat, known as a haven of militants. Insurgents increasingly attack buses and trains but usually ask passengers to get out and simply burn the vehicles.

Jerusalem is a constituency in autonomy polls — Arafat

Settlers block access to King Hussein Bridge; Israeli court defers ruling on women prisoners

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat said on Sunday that Jerusalem will be among constituencies electing a Palestinian council. Algeria's state-run radio reported.

"I announced to you the good news that Jerusalem is one among the Palestinian election constituencies," Mr. Arafat was reported as saying.

The election of a 82-member Palestinian council in the West Bank and Gaza is one of the main provisions of the Israeli-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement signed on Thursday at the White House in Washington.

An Israeli version of the accord initialled in Tabo on Sept. 24 states that there will be "various constituencies set out in the Palestinian election law" to be passed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The accord further stipulates the constituencies "shall be consistent with the provisions of this agreement," but it was not immediately clear whether the Israeli government regarded this as tantamount to agreeing to a Jerusalem constituency.

PLO negotiators had previously said East Jerusalem Palestinians would be

allowed to vote in the elections at public buildings in the city, but had not referred to a Jerusalem constituency as such.

Mr. Arafat held talks with the Algerian President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers on Sunday over his deal with Israel expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, Algerian radio said.

Israel's supreme court meanwhile ordered a group of Palestinian women prisoners held for at least another 24 hours despite the government's agreement to release them as part of the accord with the PLO.

As part of the autonomy agreement signed in Washington, Israel agreed to release 2,000 of the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners it holds, as well as 28 women prisoners.

But right-wing critics have argued that some of the women were convicted of killings, while the agreement also states that detainees imprisoned for causing death will not be released.

In five of the cases — in which the accused are residents of East Jerusalem and therefore not subject of military courts — the government is asking President Ezer Weizman to issue a pardon.

Weizman said the goal was to have troops out of West Bank towns and villages by the end of the year, except

for Hebron, where a complicated arrangement that leaves Israeli troops in the city to protect Jewish settlers is being worked out.

"Hebron will take six months," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres, in the United States for last Thursday's White House signing of the Israel-PLO agreement, said Israel would also shut down the 12 offices of its military government in the West Bank.

Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for the military government, said the first four offices would be closed next week, and the others would be closed within six months.

Palestinian sources said the Israelis and Palestinians argued until the last minute before the signing over a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank. In the end, the Israelis agreed to begin the pullout 10 days after the signing, instead of six months afterwards.

The army is expected to withdraw first from the City of Jenin in the northern West Bank and surrounding villages, followed by Nablus, Tulkarem and Kalkilya, then Ramallah and Bethlehem and finally Hebron.

Mr. Peres, speaking to the Associated Press, said the troop withdrawal from the West Bank would probably begin "in several weeks."

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Peace accord no ticket home for Palestinians

NAQURA (AFP) — Palestinian deportees Mohammad Julani and Khamis Khodr have been waiting to go home for five months, but the latest Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord appears to have passed them by.

To "kill time," Mr. Julani, 27, and Mr. Khodr, 56, take a daily swim in a secluded, clear bay on the Mediterranean as guests of United Nations forces in Lebanon. They also play chess, read, watch videotapes and learn English.

Despite such a leisurely life, Mr. Khodr says: "We're dead. We moved from a small prison to a bigger one."

The Fateh comrades were expelled to Lebanon by Israel in April after serving a combined 34-year jail sentence for planning attacks in the Jewish state.

The pair hold Jordanian nationality, but Amman turned down requests for their return, saying they are Palestinians, in view of the 1988 Jordanian decision to sever links with the West Bank.

The Palestinian self-rule authorities want to give them a home in the autonomous regions, but Israel refuses, saying they are "terrorists" and a threat to the Jewish state.

When the pair were driven blindfolded and arms bound from the Bersheba prison to Lebanon and told "if you come back, we'll kill you," they walked to the nearest Lebanese army checkpoint.

Lebanon, which refuses Palestinian deportees, turned

them back.

The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) opened the gates to its Naqura headquarters in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" and began searching for a solution with the International Red Cross (ICRC).

"We took them in for purely humanitarian reasons. Keeping them here is not an easy task, we worry about their safety and cannot let them go outside the compound," said UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel.

"It would be making things too easy for Israel and allow it to expel any undesirable Palestinians," he said, as in 1992 when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon.

With the latest expulsions of Palestinians from Libya, their situation seems more than ever precarious.

"I don't see which country will agree to take them now that (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi is expelling Palestinians," Mr. Gaillard said.

In between beating Irish peacekeepers at chess, playing football and reading Wuthering Heights and the poems of Mahmoud Darwish, Mr. Julani is writing his memoirs, devoted to his nine years in Israeli prisons.

Mr. Khodr, a blacksmith before his 25 years in prison, helps with gardening and dreams of his family and "resting" in Jericho.

Mr. Khodr divorced his wife after his arrest in 1970 because he was sentenced to life imprisonment. He has had no news of her and his sons, whom he last saw in 1978.

His brother, a policeman with the self-rule Palestinian police in Jericho, has been trying to get him home while Mr. Julani's family in Jordan has hired a lawyer for him.

If no solution is found

within two months we'll seek political asylum, maybe from an Arab country, and ask that the Palestinian embassy take us as their wards," Mr. Julani said.

Mr. Gaillard said this would only serve to sanction further Israeli expulsions.

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Egypt to close Giza Pyramid to repair 'damage from breath'

CAIRO (R) — The second of the three Great Pyramids at Giza will be closed to visitors for three months because the moist breath of hundreds of thousands of tourists is damaging the limestone walls of the interior.

Zahi Hawass, director of antiquities on the Giza plateau, told Reuters on Sunday that during the three-month period starting Oct. 10 the antiquities department would spend up to 300,000 pounds (\$88,000) on repairs and improvements.

The pyramid is that of the fourth dynasty Pharaoh Chephren, who ruled Egypt in the 26th century B.C. It is slightly smaller than the nearby Great Pyramid of the earlier Pharaoh Cheops.

"We've found that each visitor breathes out about 20 grammes of water and the condensed water turns to salt on the limestone," said Mr. Hawass.

"We're going to put in a ventilation system, take the salt off by scraping the walls, mend the cracks and redo the electricity system," he added.

The antiquities department did the same for the Great Pyramid in 1990 and 1991 and then imposed an extra fee of 10 pounds (\$3) for seeing the burial chamber of Cheops.

Mr. Hawass said tourist companies had responded by taking their clients to the Chephren Pyramid, which had no extra fee, and the number of visitors has

been running at more than 250,000 a year.

When the second pyramid reopens, visitors will have to pay extra to go to go, he added.

The pyramids are the only survivors of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

According to Yediot Achronot, Israel's largest newspaper, an unnamed naval officer from a country in South America saw Mengel in February and said he lived in a small villa in a Brazilian village under a false name.

The information was passed on to Israeli intelligence authorities, the tabloid reported.

Scepticism about Mengel's death has lingered in Israel despite an international forensic team's ruling in 1985 that the body of a man who drowned in Brazil six years before was Mengel.

Despite the ruling, reports of Mengel sightings have cropped up everywhere from Portugal to the United States.

This is the first reported sighting since April 1992, when a Frankfurt prosecutor declared Mengel dead, following final genetic tests of his remains.

If alive, Mengel would be 83.

Yediot said information about the sighting was passed on to Israel by an Israeli woman living abroad, Israel's foreign ministry and police, however, said they had not received any such information.

Mengele sighting reported

TEL AVIV (AP) — Josef Mengel, the infamous Nazi doctor known as the "angel of death," has been spotted alive and living in Brazil, despite earlier findings that he drowned there in 1979, an Israeli daily newspaper said Sunday.

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Prince Mohammad turns 55

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad on Monday celebrates his 55th birthday.

Born on Oct. 2, 1940, Prince Mohammad received his elementary education at the Islamic College in Amman and had higher studies in Switzerland and Britain. He studied at the military college in Baghdad for

one year in 1956.

Prince Mohammad acted as Regent on several occasions. On Nov. II, 1973, he was appointed personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein.

The Prince has assumed several posts, including the presidencies of the Jordanian Tribal Chiefs Council in 1971 and of the

Higher Tourism Council in 1972.

He is president of the Jordanian Shooting Federation, the Royal Shooting Club and the Jordan Chess Federation.

Prince Mohammad married her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid in March 1981. He has two sons, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Prince Ghazi.



Rabbani reinforces strategic valley

KABUL (AFP) — Fresh troops and ammunition supplies have been airlifted to government forces battling an attacking force of the Taliban Islamic movement southwest of Kabul, a senior military official said Sunday.

"We have sent reinforcements to Sanglakh, where fighting continues for the fourth day," said Defence Minister spokesman Abdulullah.

Sanglakh is a strategic valley less than 20 kilometres west of the Taliban-controlled provincial capital

Maidan Shahr.

"On Tuesday the Taliban launched their offensive against Sanglakh, and have advanced about a third-way up the valley," conceded Abdullah.

He said ammunition and reinforcements had been flown by helicopter from neighbouring Paghman district centre to Sanglakh.

On the map Paghman — headquarters of President Burhanuddin Rabbani's Pushtun ally, Ittihad-e-Islami faction leader Rasoul Sayyaf

— looks deceptively close in

Sanglakh, but from the ground a formidable 4,000-metre mountain range can be seen separating the two places.

Sanglakh is defended by a joint force of Mr. Sayyaf's men and the Shiite Harakat-e-Islami faction, which has been traditionally based there.

An AFP reporter visiting Paghman Sunday found it all calm as Mr. Sayyaf's headquarters and locals expressed no fears about the Sanglakh fighting.

"Sanglakh is over 10 hours

Arafat orders probe into death in Jericho prison

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has ordered an investigation into the death of a Palestinian security forces man who died while being questioned by Palestinian security agents, a U.S. official said Saturday.

Officials from the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem met with Palestinian security officers in Jericho for an investigation into the death of a Palestinian security forces man who died while being questioned by Palestinian security agents, a U.S. official said Saturday.

A statement issued Saturday by Mr. Rajoub's Jericho headquarters denied that Mr. Musleh had been detained by the Palestinian secret police.

But a delegation from the U.S. consulate said they were told Mr. Musleh had been detained for questioning on a criminal matter and that he died of a heart attack.

"They were told that Chairman Arafat has ordered a complete investigation, which has already begun," said a U.S. consulate official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"What we are asking for they have at least started to do. We reserve any further comment until we see the results of this investigation," the official said.

Kuwaiti unions say Yemen mission helped isolate Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti trade union federation has visited Yemen to repair relations strained by the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and increase Iraq's international isolation, a union leader said on Sunday.

The main achievement was getting the support of those who were once against us and supported Iraq," Kuwait Trade Union Federation President Thabet Al-Haroun was quoted as saying by Al-Seyasseh and its sister newspaper the Arab Times.

Mr. Haroun said he and four other federation officials made a five-day visit to Yemen last month at Yemen's invitation and had held talks with 24 Yemeni officials in the first visit there by Kuwaiti union officials since the Gulf crisis.

Kuwait's relations with Yemen and several other Arab and African states were badly strained over their perceived sympathy for Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the Kuwaiti government.

The Kuwaiti government subsidises up to 90 per cent of most unions' budgets, diplomats say.

Mr. Haroun said Yemeni officials had told them Ye-

men was ready to join Kuwait in calling on Iraq to comply with all U.N. Gulf war cease-fire resolutions.

"The union took this step to block any Iraqi attempt against Kuwait and garner the support of those who backed the Iraqi invasion.

We have no choice but to counteract Iraqi games that mislead Arab countries," Mr. Haroun said.

"Our meetings with various personalities proved Yemen is reconsidering its stance towards Kuwait and is ready to support Kuwaiti demand to have Iraqi abide by U.N. resolutions."

Mr. Haroun said the visit had not been officially sponsored by the Kuwaiti government and the federation had thought long and hard before going. Diplomats said the federation would probably not have gone to Yemen without the knowledge and tacit understanding of the Kuwaiti government.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 16/29

Aqaba 23 / 35

Deserts 16 / 33

Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterdays' high temperatures:

Amman 35. Aqaba 38. Humidity 30 per cent.

Clouds 31 per cent.

Wind speeds 30 km/h.

Relative humidity 60 per cent.

Temperature 30 degrees Celsius.

Wind speeds 30 km/h.

Relative humidity 60 per cent.

Temperature 30 degrees Celsius.

Wind speeds 30 km/h.

Relative humidity 60 per cent.

Temperature 30 degrees Celsius.

Wind speeds 30 km/h.

Relative humidity 60 per cent.

Temperature 30 degrees Celsius.

Wind speeds

Home News

Queen inaugurates 9th United World College, opens Jordanian art exhibition in Norway

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, the President of the United World Colleges (UWC), inaugurated Friday the ninth Red Cross and Red Crescent Nordic College in Fjaler, Norway, a Royal Court statement said.

Students at the eight UWCs, located in Wales, Italy, Canada, Singapore, United States, Swaziland, Hong Kong and Norway, study for the International Baccalaureate degree, a pre-university qualification, while the ninth college in Venezuela offers a three-year diploma course in farm management and rural development, according to the statement.

During her stay in Norway, Queen Noor explored the possibility of establishing a UWC in the Middle East, the statement said.

The UWCs, which select students from throughout the world based on merit, awarding the majority scholarships, have emphasized diverse community service programmes within their educational curricula.

During the opening ceremony, Chairman of the UWC Queen Sonja of Norway concluded the opening ceremony saying that the United World Colleges are distinguished for their dual approach, "pride in one's own culture and willingness to learn about others," according to the statement.

The Patron of the Nordic UWC Mark Hoffman said that the UWC was fortunate to have gained the Queen as their new president who is "wise, intelligent, caring and with the energy to match the youthful vigour of the United World Colleges," the statement said.

In her speech, Queen Noor observed that it was appropriate to establish a UWC in Norway, the country which awards the Nobel Peace Prize and "whose contributions to the Middle East peace process will always be remembered."

She praised the UWC's educational philosophy of "enlightened internationalism and global solidarity" saying that "the most valuable lesson which students will acquire from a UWC

education is respect for pluralism, an enduring sense of community with fellow men and women from many other lands, and an understanding of the shared destiny of our human family."

She expressed her hope that the Arab World, which currently accounts for only one per cent of the UWC graduates, will play a more vital role in UWC's future through exchanges of administrators, teachers and students, the statement said.

Queen Noor noted that the philosophy of the Jubilee School mirrors many of the UWC's values and reflects Jordan's "commitment to equal opportunity for all Jordanians to develop their potential and to contribute to more balanced national development."

She added that the aim of such academic institutions is not merely "to graduate educated young people," but to "graduate educated young activists for peace and justice."

The show is a sequel to "Encounters I," the Norwegian Cultural Week held in Jordan last May under the Queen's patronage.

The exhibition featured paintings by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Ammar Khammash, Nawal Abdullah and Khalid Khreis, which were chosen by the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation's Darat Al Funun.

The statement said that Queen Noor expressed her hope that the series of varied cultural and artistic exchanges will be the beginning of a long and rich journey of mutual discovery for both countries.

Both "Encounters" were sponsored by the Norwegian Cultural Foundations 3, 14, Jebsens Thun Management, Alcanet Kabel Norway and Austrian Airlines, the statement said.

Rift valley development feasibility study awarded to international consortium

U.S. grants Jordan \$1.8m to study potential for Wadi Mousa waste water treatment plant

By Ramadan Rawashdeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A tender for the second stage of the feasibility study on the development of the Jordan Rift Valley has been awarded to a consortium of U.S., British, Israeli and Italian firms, Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Qusay Quteishat Sunday announced.

The study is being funded through a \$3 million grant from the Italian government through the World Bank, said Mr. Quteishat.

The study will explore the possibility of opening a Red Sea-Dead Sea canal as well as the prospect of creating lakes in the Jordan Valley and transport and telecommunications projects in that region, according to the secretary general.

The study, which will take 18 months to complete, will have to be approved by the World Bank, according to Mr. Quteishat.

This study will not be among the projects to be submitted to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference but will be presented as an achievement of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed last October, Mr. Quteishat said.

The first stage on the development of the Jordan Rift Valley entailed a collection of data and preliminary information on the

region, according to Mr. Quteishat.

A meeting of the steering committee for the Jordan Valley, which groups representatives of Jordan, Israel and the U.S., will be held here prior to the MENA conference to review studies on projects in the valley, the secretary general said.

Meanwhile, under an agreement concluded here Sunday the U.S. government will provide a grant of \$1.85 million to cover the full cost of a feasibility study and engineering design for a waste water treatment project in the Wadi Mousa area.

The study, signed by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and the U.S. engineering consulting firm Camp Dresser and McKee International (CDM), was attended by William Oliver, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan.

The project is the first of its kind in the Wadi Mousa area where the ancient city of Petra lies.

The aid is part of a \$42 million USAID grant to the ministry to help improve water quality and preservation of water resources in the Wadi Mousa area and building a wastewater treatment plant.

The feasibility study includes an assessment of environmental impact to ensure preservation and conservation of the archae-



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and a representative of Camp Dresser and McKee International, an American engineering consulting firm, Sunday sign an agreement for a feasibility study on a waste water treatment plant for the Wadi Mousa area (Petra photo)

ological and historical heritage of Petra and its surroundings, the agency said.

The aid is part of a \$42 million USAID grant to the ministry to help improve water quality and preservation of water resources in the Wadi Mousa area and building a wastewater treatment plant.

The agency is also funding a project to upgrade the efficiency of the Kharbet Al Samra waste water treatment plant near Zarqa, according to the minister.

USAID grants stipulate that the projects must be carried out by American firms and local sub-contractors, the minister said.

The feasibility study will be divided into three stages: a general survey and study of the area to be carried out over a six-month period; another six-month period to draw up the engineering design of the project and finally an 18-month period to assess and endorse the project.

10 children hurt in school bus mishap

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ten kindergarten children were discharged from a Ramtha hospital after treatment for third degree burns suffered when they were exposed to hot radiator water from a bus, police said Sunday.

According to police reports, the toddlers were being taken home on Saturday when the vehicle became overheated and the driver, identified as Khaled B., stopped the bus, and opened the radiator, which is located near driver's seat.

The reports said that as soon as the radiator cap was removed, hot water spewed

out, burning the driver and the children.

According to hospital officials, six of the children were treated for third degree burns and were discharged the same day. The other four, they added, were discharged on Sunday and were listed in good condition.

The bus driver was listed in serious condition and was still being treated in hospital.

Festive firing on the rise

Statistics released by police said incidents of festive firing, most often during weddings, were on the increase.

Twenty-five incidents of festive firing were reported in August.

During the same month, nine other incidents of mis-handling of weapons and three others involving accidental firing of guns (while the weapons were being cleaned) were also reported.

A total of 23 people were injured in the incidents, according to police statistics.

Police reiterated a warning to the public that weapons should not be fired during weddings or any other festive occasions, because most often such firings lead to casualties.

Speaking after he had formally opened a seminar at the Amra Hotel to inform the media on Jordan's preparations for the conference opening on Oct. 29, Dr. Karaki said the press centre, being set up at Al Hussein Sports City, is being fitted with the necessary equipment to enable correspondents of television networks and the press to provide up-to-minute coverage of the meetings.

At least 300 foreign journalists are expected to converge in Amman for this conference which is expected to offer a great opportunity for the Kingdom to display its hospitality to its guests and reflect its true image to the outside

world, added the minister.

In opening the seminar earlier, the minister welcomed the journalists and invited them to convey to the world the country's readiness to receive investors in various economic fields.

He stressed that the Ministry of Information will offer them all the facilities to enable them to carry out their mission as best as possible.

Chairman of the conference's preparatory committee Umaya Touqan addressed the audience saying that Jordan has made preparations for welcoming 1,100 participants representing the private sectors in different countries of the world who will take part in up to 40 sessions during the three-day conference.

Noting that the conference is being convened for what he called the rehabilitation of the Middle East economy, Dr. Touqan said it is hoped that the meeting will help enhance the climate of investments.

But he cautioned against excessive optimism or pessimism over the conference's outcome.

State Security Court again postpones trial in French envoy attack case

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The trial of two Jordanians involved in an attack on a French diplomat was again postponed Sunday because one of the three judges at the State Security Court was still unwell.

No new date was announced, but according to judicial sources, the court is expected to announce a new date for the trial today or tomorrow.

"The indisposed judge has left hospital and is expected to report to court tomorrow (Monday) or Tuesday at the latest," the source told the Jordan Times.

The two suspects were arrested after a Feb. 14 incident in which a French diplomat was shot and wounded in the Wadi Mousa area.

The formal charges against the two include "plotting to carry out extremist attacks, possessing illegal arms and explosives, and manufacturing hand-made explosives."

The court is expected to announce a new date for another case also recently postponed, that of Bay'at Al Imam (Pledge of allegiance to the leader), a

group accused of plotting terrorist attacks in Jordan.

The State Court is also expected to set a date for a new trial of six people also accused of plotting sabotage in Jordan, the source told the Jordan Times.

The six defendants, said to be part of a group called

"Islamic Revival," last week were formally charged by the prosecutor general of illegal possession and manufacturing of explosives materials with the purpose of using them illegally.

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SWEIFIYEH **SHMEISSANI**

Business Bank Haya Center

India studies polls in Kashmir; Muslim militants vow sabotage

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — India's Election Commission is studying the possibility of holding elections in Kashmir, a top official said Sunday, but Muslim separatists vowed to sabotage any attempt at a ballot.

Deputy Election Commissioner M.S. Gill said a decision on holding polls for the Kashmir legislature would be taken after studying New Delhi's assessment of the situation in the strife-torn state.

"I can't give you a date," when elections would be held, Mr. Gill told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to Kashmir, where a bloody Muslim separatist campaign has claimed more than 12,000 lives by official count since 1989.

"(We need) a little more time and are awaiting information and reports from the government of India," Mr. Gill said after extensive talks with top Kashmir officials and mainstream political parties.

Kashmir, India's only

Muslim-majority state, ruled directly by New Delhi since 1990, last held legislative elections in 1987.

Mr. Gill's visit was marred by a protest shutdown called by Muslim militants opposed to elections in Kashmir, and Muslim leaders on Sunday vowed to sabotage Indian-sponsored polls in the northern state.

"We shall never allow elections to take place," the all-party Freedom Conference, an umbrella grouping of more than 30 Muslim separatist groups said.

"Kashmiris are fighting for self-determination, and that is our goal," a conference spokesman said.

Ali Shah Geelani, who heads the fundamentalist Jamiat-E-Islami, said Kashmiris would boycott elections if they were held, and added that the ballot would anyhow never solve the Kashmir conflict.

"So many elections have been held in Kashmir since India's independence in 1947," he told AFP. "Did

they solve the Kashmir problem?"

Shabir Shah, an influential Muslim leader, echoed his sentiments: "So many thousands of Kashmiris have not sacrificed their lives to take part in elections."

A strike called by the Al-Umar Mujahideen rebel group to protest Mr. Gill's visit paralysed the Kashmir Valley Saturday. Shops, banks, businesses and post offices were shut across the region, while virtually all civilian traffic went off the roads in Srinagar, the state summer capital.

The (Kashmiri) people have demonstrated that they have no interest in any political process or election sponsored by India," Mr. Shah said in a statement.

Mr. Gill, however, criticised the shutdown, saying Muslim groups opposed to elections should have met him.

"Democracy is all about differing, disagreeing, and finding out common acceptable positions," he said. "I would have liked to meet

(Muslim separatist leaders)," he added.

On Saturday, Kashmir's Governor K.V. Krishna Rao told Mr. Gill during a lengthy meeting that the state administration was ready to hold elections to the 82-seat legislature any time.

Mr. Gill refused to comment on Mr. Rao's statement, saying a decision on Kashmir elections would be taken by the autonomous election commission in New Delhi. He did not say when.

The government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had earlier toyed with the prospect of holding the polls in July this year, but later bowed to objections from Indian political parties.

The Kashmir chapter of Mr. Rao's Congress (I) Party is insisting on early elections, while the pro-India National Conference Party, which once ruled Kashmir, wants greater autonomy as a condition for taking part in the polls.



CEZANNE EXHIBITION: A crowd waits to enter the Grande Palais for the opening day of the Paul Cezanne exhibition in Paris. This retrospective is the largest since 1936 where one can see 109 paintings, 42 watercolours and 26 drawings (AFP photo)

Nearly 150 die in Bangladesh floods

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 150 people have been killed and more than 100 injured in five days of floods caused by heavy rain in northern Bangladesh, local officials said Sunday.

The Kashmari chapter of Mr. Rao's Congress (I) Party is insisting on early elections, while the pro-India National Conference Party, which once ruled Kashmir, wants greater autonomy as a condition for taking part in the polls.

Dinajpur alone, where floodwaters started receding Sunday after the rainfall dropped off.

Authorities called in troops Saturday to help rescue 1.3 million people marooned in far-off areas. They also opened nearly 20 shelters in Dinajpur and neighbouring districts, officials said.

Most of the deaths were in the worst-hit district of Dinajpur where paramilitary troops rescued nearly 15,000 people in the past two days but thousands were still marooned.

Victims were trapped in mud houses that collapsed during and after the rain.

"The mud structures gave in just like a house of cards. Many residents were trapped in their sleep," one Dinajpur official said.

He said some people drowned as their homes and belongings were swept into the fast rising rivers.

This report could not be independently confirmed.

The floods destroyed crops on nearly 150,000 acres (60,000 hectares), agriculture officials said.

Georgia ex-minister said behind Shevardnadze assassination attempt

TBILISI (R) — Georgian authorities accused former Security Minister Igor Georgadze and Russian "extremists" Sunday of masterminding a recent failed attempt to kill leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

The failed attempt on the life of the head of state Shevardnadze was planned by the chief of the security service, Igor Georgadze, Interior Minister Shota Kviriya told a meeting of regional and security officials.

In a bombshell disclosure, Mr. Kviriya suggested Mr. Georgadze had acted on the orders of "reactionary forces" in Russia.

"Georgadze is very close with (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin's opponents," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who escaped the attack with facial cuts, showed no emotion as he sat through the speech.

Mr. Georgadze, who fled to Moscow shortly after being fired following the Aug. 29 bomb attack, is to be extradited to Georgia from Russia, Acting Security Minister Avtandil Ioseliani told Reuters.

"Russia will allow us to bring him to Georgia. Then it will be clear exactly who was behind him," Ioseliani said, adding that Russian "extremists" were the most likely culprits.

Mr. Kviriya also accused Mr. Georgadze of being behind a spate of recent political killings, including the murder of popular opposition leader.

One source told Reuters that Mr. Shevardnadze had discussed the matter at length with Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev during their September visit to Georgia.

"Shevardnadze explained the whole thing, the connections between Georgadze and extremist forces in Russia. They and Yeltsin agreed to back him on it, partially because it might allow them to discredit the nationalists and Communists," said the source, who asked not to be named.

Russia holds parliamentary polls on Dec. 17, and Communist and nationalist parties are expected to do well.

Mr. Shevardnadze has no shortage of enemies in Russia, who despise him for the massive Soviet arms cuts and troop pullouts from Eastern Europe. He helped design as Soviet foreign minister under Mikhail Gorbachev.

In an open letter to Mr. Shevardnadze, published last week in the conservative Russian daily Sovetskaya Rossiya, Georgadze called his old boss a tyrant and vowed never to return to Georgia while he ruled.

Officials close to the

Opposition disarray benefits Rao

NEW DELHI (R) — India's two main opposition groups are in disarray, beset by arguing and internal dissent, giving Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao an unexpected bonus as he prepares for general elections next year.

"It's good news for us," Vithal Gadgil, the spokesman for India's ruling Congress Party, told Reuters Sunday.

"Now it looks like we will get a majority, a slight one maybe, but an overall majority."

The major victim of the past week has been the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which until recently looked on track to become the largest party after the elections which must be held before July.

A revolt in party ranks has caught the BJP completely unaware in its showcase western state of Gujarat, which it swept in a landslide only six months ago and was meant to be a model of BJP government.

By week's end, stunned BJP officials faced the very real prospect that the split might lose them control of the party.

With the expelled rebel BJP leader Shankarsinh Vaghela insisting he commanded the loyalty of almost half the party cau-

cus, the governor of Gujarat gave Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel a week to prove his majority in the state assembly.

The vote is likely to be a close thing. The BJP holds 121 seats in the 182-member assembly, meaning Mr. Patel needs to win back half the defectors to stay in power.

The crisis in Gujarat came on the heels of a growing rift between the BJP and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) which it is propping up in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

The BJP, anxious to shed its image as an upper caste Hindu party and broaden its appeal before the elections, has been supporting the BSP government, which represents the Dalits or outcasts, the lowest rung of India's caste-driven society.

Uttar Pradesh returns 85 of the 545 members of the Indian parliament, and the BJP has been hoping to extend its control over this block, but increasing friction between the two parties has put the continuing existence of the alliance in jeopardy.

Relations between the BJP and its coalition partners in the industrial state of Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena, are also tense as negotiations continue over how many seats each party will

contest in the elections. But the BJP is not alone in its problems.

The National Front-Left Front Alliance suffered a serious blow in August when one of its leaders and a possible prime ministerial candidate, former film star N.T. Rama Rao, was toppled as chief minister of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in a rebellion led by members of his own family.

In the neighbouring state of Karnataka, another leading alliance figure, Chief Minister H.D. Deve, is also facing a growing rebellion in the ranks of his Janata Dal Party which could threaten his wafer-thin majority in the state assembly.

The three were killed in districts east and central and 18 vehicles were burned as masked gunmen enforced the strike overnight, police and ambulance volunteers said.

At least five people were wounded by gunfire in the central, west and east districts Sunday, the police said.

The strike was called by the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) to protest alleged killings by Rangers and police of three of its activists in custody.

Major shopping centres and business houses, educational institutions and bank branches remained closed because commuters could not get to work after public transport was pulled off the roads for fear of arson.

The Karachi Stock Exchange, the private Karachi Cotton Association and foreign exchange dealers closed due to thin attendance following lack of public transport, dealers said.

Violence erupted Saturday night when gunmen fired in the air and burned buses in protest against what they said was police repression.

More than 140 policemen have been killed in Karachi this year compared with 80 in 1994. They were among 1,523 people who have died this year in ethnic, sectarian and political bloodshed.

The latest surge in violence followed a decision by the MQM to boycott scheduled talks last Tuesday with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government in protest what it says are extra-judicial killings and torture of its supporters by the security forces.

In an editorial titled "Di's spell is danger for men" the once-loyal Sun tabloid said the princess appeared to care about no-one but herself.

Carling, 29, a dark, handsome rugby player who has captained his country 53 times, appears to have been dazzled by Princess Diana's glamour, telephoning her and meeting her behind his wife's back.

One former girlfriend told the People newspaper how Carling "can't resist powerful women and has an obsession for blondes".

The same paper said Carling had consulted an "oriental mystic" to predict his own and Princess Diana's futures.

Karachi paralysed by strike, violence

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Three people were shot dead overnight as an anti-government strike, arson and violence shut down the industrial port city of Karachi Sunday, witnesses and police said.

The three were killed in districts east and central and 18 vehicles were burned as masked gunmen enforced the strike overnight, police and ambulance volunteers said.

At least five people were wounded by gunfire in the central, west and east districts Sunday, the police said.

The strike was called by the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) to protest alleged killings by Rangers and police of three of its activists in custody.

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Poll: Britons want end to Diana's miserable marriage

LONDON (R) — Most Britons think Prince Charles and Princess Diana can never be reconciled and should divorce, according to a poll conducted after newspapers accused Princess Diana of a role in the marriage break-up of rugby star Will Carling.

The Sunday Express said 62 per cent of those asked thought the heir to the throne and the glamorous princess had taken a battering this week, should put their failed marriage out of its misery and divorce now.

Eighty-two per cent believed the marriage had broken down irretrievably.

Princess Diana won the public's sympathy when she and Prince Charles separated in 1992 after 11 years together but her image as the unloved and wronged princess has been tarnished by a string of rumours about close friendships with often married men.

The latest scandal, broken by tabloid newspapers which claimed Princess Diana and Carling had held secret meetings, appears to have done neither of them any good.

Princess Diana, 34, has rejected responsibility for the break-up of the England rugby captain's 14-month

marriage to television presenter Julia, which was announced Thursday, a day before the latest ICM poll was conducted.

But the latest in a row of alleged flirtations with other women's men has helped cast the fairy-tale princess as a dangerous manipulator.

In a thinly-veiled reference to Princess Diana, 30-year-old Julia Carling said she faced losing her husband "in a manner which has become outside my control".

But Princess Diana, speaking to the press through friends, said she only learned of the marriage bust-up through television news reports, and branded Carling a fool.

Carling, 29, a dark, handsome rugby player who has captained his country 53 times, appears to have been dazzled by Princess Diana's glamour, telephoning her and meeting her behind his wife's back.

One former girlfriend told the People newspaper how Carling "can't resist powerful women and has an obsession for blondes".

The same paper said Carling had consulted an "oriental mystic" to predict his own and Princess Diana's futures.

The friend Carling was staying with at the weekend told reporters the rugby star was determined to save his marriage and had vowed never to meet Princess Diana again.

Carling follows married London art dealer Oliver Hoare, soldier James Hewitt and dashing marketing executive James Gilbey, who all became involved with Princess Diana but ended up losers.

Mr. Hoare complained to police about nuisance calls last year and Mr. Gilbey's former girlfriend committed suicide after his intimate phone calls with Princess Diana were made public.

The princess is now in grave danger of being seen as a cynical manipulator of men," the Times wrote Saturday.

In an editorial titled "Di's spell is danger for men" the once-loyal Sun tabloid said the princess appeared to care about no-one but herself.

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A woman and her son arrive at Johannesburg International Airport after having been stranded in the Comoros due to a coup in the Indian Ocean island group (AP photo)

Comorans celebrate Djohar overthrow

MORONI, Comoro Islands (R) — Hundreds of euphoric Comorans staged a colourful rally Sunday to celebrate the overthrow of President Said Mohamed Djohar, but anger rose against the man behind the coup, soldier of fortune Bob Denard.

At a rally called by opposition parties to endorse Mr. Djohar's fall, senior officials and the party faithful demanded the departure of the French national and its white "dogs of war".

Diplomats said Mr. Djohar, who has survived several coup attempts, grew unpopular because of his failure to organise fair elections.

"Bob Denard should not stay. We don't need mercenaries in the country, he should go now. His mission is finished so he has to go for the stability of the country," Idi Nadhoim, a senior official in the opposition UNDC party, told the cheering crowd.

Mr. Nadhoim said the presence of mercenaries in the

Indian Ocean archipelago could allow the former government of Mr. Djohar to make propaganda about the coup and weaken the credibility of the opposition parties.

"There is a problem people think the white soldiers who helped overthrow Djohar will stay here permanently. This is wrong, it's propaganda to try to make the population revolt," Mr. Nadhoim added.

About 500 people crowded Moroni's city centre to hear speakers from four political opposition parties denounce Mr. Djohar's rule.

Comorans, many dressed in traditional Islamic attire, danced through the winding streets of the seaside town, whistling and beating drums in a scene more typical of a carnival.

Denard, who has a Comoran wife and citizenship, was keeping a low profile in his adopted homeland, although reliable Comoran sources spotted him inside the Kandami Barracks Saturday wearing military fatigues.

After a buccaneering career in Africa in the 1960s and 1970s, when many of his military escapades

failed, Denard and his loyal band called Les Affreux (the Frightful Ones) opted for a quiet life running affairs in the Comoros.

Denard was head of the Presidential Guard from 1978 until he was forced to retire to South Africa after a coup brought Mr. Djohar in power in 1989.

He returned to France in 1993 and got off with a suspended prison sentence for trying to topple the government of the West African country of Benin in 1977.

But this week's events confirmed that Denard sees his future in the Comoros, where he is known as said Moustapha M'adjhou, and owns a fortress-like villa shielded by a four-metre (12-foot) wall opposite Kandami Barracks.

French troops in Indian

Ocean bases were on the alert but a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Paris indicated they would not be sent to the islands as long as 1,500 French residents were not threatened.

Accused Japan cultists blame themselves, guru

TOKYO (R) — Most followers of a Japanese doomsday cult who stood trial on various charges last month have vowed to quit the sect and blame themselves and guru Shoko Asahara for the group's bewildering array of crimes.

"I want you to sentence (guru Shoko) Asahara to death," the guru's bodyguard Satoshi Tamura told the Tokyo district court in his Sept. 5 hearing.

"Aum (the sect) should be disbanded immediately. Followers should burn Asahara posters and stop listening to his tapes," Mr. Tamura said.

Mr. Asahara goes on trial on Oct. 26 on murder and attempted murder charges stemming from the March 20 subway nerve gas attack

which killed 11 people and affected 5,000 passengers. He faces a maximum penalty of death by hanging if convicted.

Separate trials of some 30 senior leaders in the 10,000-member cult, including follower-lawyer Yoshinobu Aoyama, 35, also start in mid-October.

Mr. Tamura, 35, was the first of middle-echelon members of the Aum Shinrikyo (Aum Supreme Truth Sect) to stand trial. He pleaded guilty to charges of violating the radio control law by placing an illegal police receiver in Asahara's limousine.

His five-month jail sentence was suspended for two years.

As well as the Tokyo sub-

way case, the cult has been accused of a July 1994 nerve gas attack in Matsumoto, a central Japan resort, which killed seven and injured 600.

Other pending court cases include the gang-style murder of a 34-year-old follower who tried to quit, the kidnapping-murder of an anti-cult Yokohama lawyer and his family, the murder of a Tokyo notary official who tried to get his sister out of the sect, and the production of drugs and weapons.

The cult also faces a disbandment court order under the religious institution act, which would allow the government to confiscate its assets, and a separate Justice Ministry order that would outlaw the group

under the controversial subversive activities prevention act.

Mr. Tamura's court statements probably prompted others to speak out against their 40-year-old guru, Japanese media said.

Asahara claimed he was blind and had ordered members to live on strict discipline and frugal vegetarian meals. Mr. Tamura told the court the guru frequently went restaurant-hopping with his family feasting on steaks, fried prawns and sashimi.

"Asahara made criminals out of more than 200 of his followers," Rira Harashi, 46, another Aum defendant accused of hiding wanted suspects, told the Tokyo district court on Sept. 7. She denied the charges but quit the sect.

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ple, including Son Soubert, Norodom Ranariddh and Son Sam's son and vice president of the National Assembly. A party member said Mr. Soubert had a shrapnel wound in his left arm.

Another grenade was thrown into the grounds of a Buddhist pagoda, injuring seven people who came to take part in a party meeting scheduled for Sunday at a Phnom Penh stadium.

One grenade was thrown into the residence of Son Sam, the founder of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party.

The opposition member of the National Assembly is engaged in a power struggle against a faction backed by the bigger parties in the coalition government.

The attack injured 24 people, including Son Soubert, Norodom Ranariddh and Son Sam's son and vice president of the National Assembly. A party member said Mr. Soubert had a shrapnel wound in his left arm.

Another grenade was thrown into the grounds of a Buddhist pagoda, injuring seven people who came to take part in a party meeting scheduled for Sunday at a Phnom Penh stadium.

Police said no one had claimed responsibility for the attacks. There was no word on whether participants would go ahead with Sunday's banned meeting.

The country's co-premiers,

Korea.

The severe food shortage forced the proud north to accept a historic donation of 150,000 tons of rice from rival South Korea in June.

But since then, South Korea has been growing increasingly angry over the North's refusal to improve political ties even as it asks for more help.

The latest round of aid talks in Beijing ended with South Korea demanding that further talks be held on the Korean peninsula and include political issues as well as aid.

The two Koreas, divided into the capitalist South and the Communist North at the end of World War II, have remained bitter enemies since the 1950-53 Korean War. With no peace treaty signed, the two sides are still technically at war, with nearly 2 million troops deployed on both sides.

Amid fragile peace, South Korean leader warns of war

SEOUL (AP) — President Kim Young-Sam warned Sunday that continuing rivalry with North Korea has come to a "critical period" and asked the North Korea as part of an early-warning system.

"On the Korean peninsula, the last embers of the cold war still flicker and could burst into the flames of war at any time," Mr. Kim told a ceremony marking the 47th anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

"Our military force must closely monitor North Korea's every move," he said in a speech broadcast live nationwide on television and radio.

Also Sunday, defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho cautioned that despite economic hardship, North Korea has strengthened its military capability and training.

The North has been holding attack simulations in terrain similar to South Korea, Mr. Lee told KBS

able to resolve its economic problems any time soon, President Kim warned: "The next two to three years will be a very critical period in terms of national security" for South Korea.

Air force Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Hong-Rae said North Korea has placed more surface-to-air missiles and long-range artillery units along the North-South border, and has increased reconnaissance flights and airborne exercises.

The United States has Patriot antimissile batteries and 37,000 troops based in Korea.

The string of warnings come as the North's shambling economy was hit by devastating floods last month.

Military analysts have said armed provocation is likely should the North Korean government face collapse.

Predicting that the Communist North will not be

"It means putting in place a revolution in schools' standards... It means a modern, renewed NHS (National Health Service) that puts patients first. It means a modernised welfare state."

One of Mr. Blair's big ideas will be to pledge cash to cut the size of primary school classes, political sources said.

Mr. Blair is at pains to convey the image of a new Labour Party which has cast off the mantle of the hard-left.

One controversy at the conference will be a decision by Labour's ruling executive to ban left-winger Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate. "I can only have been refused because I am on the left of the party," she said Sunday.

U. K. Labour Party leader calls for unity

BRIGHTON, England (R) — British opposition leader Tony Blair called on his Labour Party Sunday to close ranks ahead of a party conference at which he is to unveil radical plans to reform welfare, improve education and cut unemployment.

As delegates gathered in this southern resort town for the annual Labour conference to start Monday, Mr. Blair appealed to them to lay aside policy differences and to concentrate on projecting the vision of a new and more electable party.

"This week Labour must close ranks," said Mr. Blair, who has sought to make the party more centrist to broaden its appeal. "We must be utterly single-minded... and we must be be united."

While accusing the Conservatives of breaking their promises to the nation, Mr. Blair will make detailed pledges for the first time of

what Labour expects to achieve during the lifetime of a parliament, political sources said.

The speech will answer criticism that his party lacks clear policies by announcing the first spending commitments of an incoming Labour government, they said.

Gordon Brown, Labour's finance spokesman, said Sunday his party would use £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) from a windfall tax on the privatised utilities to break the "logjam" of unemployment and to help the "forgotten generation" of jobless youths.

Explaining he will be putting forward a new programme, Mr. Blair said in the Mirror. "That means reforms that will radically reduce the levels of long-term unemployment and start putting the economy back on track..."

Politician, 30 others hurt in Cambodia grenade attacks

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — More than 30 people, including Son Soubert, Norodom Ranariddh and Son Sam's son and vice president of the National Assembly. A party member said Mr. Soubert had a shrapnel wound in his left arm.

Another grenade was thrown into the grounds of a Buddhist pagoda, injuring seven people who came to take part in a party meeting scheduled for Sunday at a Phnom Penh stadium.

One grenade was thrown into the residence of Son Sam, the founder of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party.

The opposition member of the National Assembly is engaged in a power struggle against a faction backed by the bigger parties in the coalition government.

The attack injured 24 people,

lens. Earlier this week, Co-Premier Hun Sen said security officials would take measures to stop the meeting if it were not called off.

Mr. Hun Sen said he opposed the meeting because he was "afraid of security problems, like grenade attacks," which might be staged by unidentified people as a political reprisal.

Members of the Son Sann faction were to hold the meeting to challenge the election by a rival party faction in July. Information Minister Ieng Mouly as party president to replace Mr. Son Sann.

China reminds Taiwan unification inevitable

BEIJING (R) — China marked National Day Sunday with a reminder to rival Taiwan that reunification was unavoidable, even if by force, and accused the island's President Lee Teng-Hui of plotting independence.

The warning, slightly softer than recent furious attacks on Mr. Lee, was timed to coincide with the 46th anniversary on Oct. 1 of the formal Communist takeover when national unity is a major theme.

Premier Li Peng told a formal reception Saturday that recent military tests in the sea just north of Taiwan underlined Beijing's determination to reunify the world's most populous country.

Taiwan will surely return to the embrace of the motherland," said a National Day commentary by the official Xinhua New Agency entitled "Reunification of the motherland must be accomplished".

China has regarded Tai-

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1984

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 607161

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Fissioning power at U.N.

U.S. SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher's address to the new session of the U.N. General Assembly which opened a few days ago was no ordinary speech in the sense that it represented the views of the dominant power in the international organisation. Naturally all ears were tuned to the words of Mr. Christopher in a bid to decipher any possible shift in Washington's policies in the international and regional arenas. But one of the most striking features of his statement was his clear-cut call for permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council for both Japan and Germany.

There has been much talk in recent times about expanding the Council especially in terms of adding to the list of permanent seats other power brokers in the world. Tokyo and Bonn were the natural candidates because of their economic clout. Because other regions of the world were also expecting to be accorded recognition equivalent to occupying such seats, however, the U.S. secretary of state merely hinted that there is still unfinished business in the quest for an expanded Security Council. Mr. Christopher did not mention the "other" regions by name naturally because he knew that there still were wide disagreements among the countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia on which state(s) from their respective continents should speak on their behalf.

Yet we see that the greatest challenge to a more democratically constituted Council lies not so much in who should represent these others areas of the world, but rather in the U.N. Charter which still bestows on certain select group of countries veto powers. In this context, the Charter needs to be amended and exactly in the area of the veto vote which allows any single country among the five permanent members to freeze or neutralise international action on any particular situation or conflict. Instead of the veto power which can be arbitrarily exercised by one or the other permanent members, we would like to see resolutions adopted by, for instance, a two-third majority vote without any certain capital having the privilege of undoing what the other Council members would like to do. At the same time we see no problem in having permanent members drawn from a list of the most powerful countries, but this issue must not necessarily be linked with the exercise of a veto power. This is in fact what the General Assembly should address in its current session. There are not many issues that are more important than this one on the Assembly's agenda for this year.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the continued expulsion of Palestinians from Libya, a writer in Al Dustour said what Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is doing cannot be stopped by articles in the Arab press. Experience has proved that Arab leaders do not fear the press and are intent to stop up their arbitrary measures when faced with criticism, said Tamer Al Adwan. The Libyan measures ought to be confronted with a collective Arab action led by the Arab League, especially Lebanon and Syria because these countries maintain strong ties with the Libyan regime, said the writer. The Arab governments ought to open their eyes to the statements of Israeli leaders who continue to reject any discussion on the repatriation of refugees and the creation of a Palestine state, which can absorb refugees, said the writer. Indeed, a collective pan-Arab action would prevent the shelving of the refugees question and would stop any foreign powers from imposing a solution to the refugees' problem on the Arab World, added the writer.

IN VIEW of the growing and great demand on university education, a writer in Al Ra'i daily called on the government to pave the way for the emergence of an open university which can provide correspondence education saying that this practice has been proved successful in Britain and the Arab World, where the Al Quds Open University has been operating for the past decade. Ahmad Arafat said that Jordan ought to benefit from this experiment in other countries and extend bridges of cooperation with such institutions through the Ministry of Higher Education. The writer said an open university enables a multitude of citizens to obtain higher education while working and earning a living and will no doubt end the problems normally created every summer when the universities open the door to a limited number of students, said the writer.

Human Rights File

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

A more effective way to deal with human rights

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) formally proposed the creation of an international tribunal to try violators of grave human rights by exercising jurisdiction over serious human rights abuses whenever and wherever they occur. The key element in this AI idea is the jurisdictional point, which would make human rights violators accountable internationally even when they are not so domestically. This suggestion, therefore, would call for the articulation and adoption of an international convention that countries would be invited to adhere to and become a party thereto.

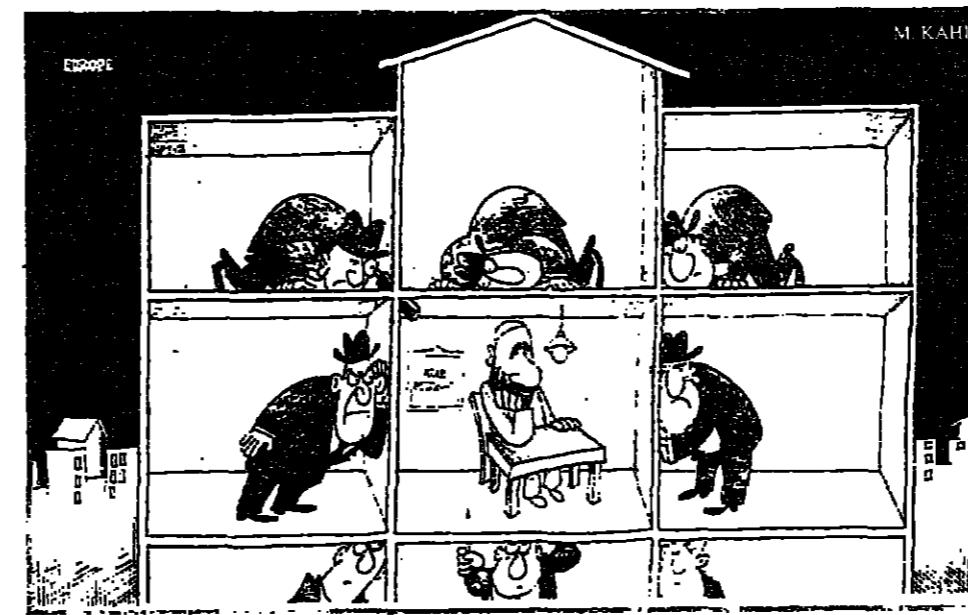
It goes without saying that many capitals, especially from the developing world where respect for human rights has yet to deepen and consolidate, would be reluctant to sign and ratify any such human rights treaty for fear of losing grip over their own domestic human rights scene. Nevertheless, the adoption of such a human rights convention would expose many countries' stands on human rights. It is one thing to sign and ratify "teethless" human rights instruments under which accountability is minimal, and it is quite another thing to make nationals of all states subject to an international jurisdiction that can bite, and bite painfully. It is enough to remember that all people who are suspected of human rights violations could be apprehended outside their homeland by any state that would be a party to the proposed treaty under the terms of this suggestion. Human rights watchers, international or regional or even national, could submit complaints to the international prosecutor under the proposed treaty and the arrest of any such suspect could be legally undertaken in any foreign state which is also a party to the treaty.

It would seem to me that such a drastic idea could be the right and effective prescription against the unchecked human rights violations, especially in their most serious form. We have all seen that in spite of numerous human rights instruments and the convening of periodic international meetings on human rights, the record of most countries on human rights has only turned from bad to worse. Even the Vienna Rights Conference in 1993 failed to advance the cause of human rights in any meaningful way. The international community must, therefore, begin to think of more effective ways to address human rights, particularly in areas where they count most, such as the right to life, prevention of torture and ill treatment of detainees and respect for due process of the law whenever a person is threatened with the deprivation of his liberties

and properties. The AI proposal would seem to run parallel to the already established international tribunal on war crimes and crimes against humanity. Violations of human rights during armed conflict are being targeted by the international community in a vigorous way in the aftermath of commissions of grave violations against international humanitarian law in such places as Burundi, Bosnia and parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Now is, therefore, the time to complement this international concern in humanitarian law with a similar action on the human rights front.

The AI proposal could be exactly what is needed to reflect this additional concern. But first, the promoters of the idea should not be over-ambitious. For starters, the international jurisdiction over human rights crimes should be confined to the most serious ones, such as torture. We cannot expect an international human rights court to look into all aspects and dimensions of human rights such as freedom of the press or fair trial or even the full respect for democracy. As important as these subjects are, they can still be distinguished from the pressing human rights standards. Besides, we already have in place several international bodies dealing with civil and political rights such as the Human Rights Committee with full jurisdiction to examine human rights abuses under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). We also have the Committee Against Torture and other bodies on the rights of children and women. Discrimination in all its forms, whether racial or sex oriented, is also amply dealt with in several international fora and expert groups.

What we should aim for with respect to this second category of human rights violations is to strengthen the bodies which monitor their application by increasing their mandate and enforcement mechanisms. The AI proposal, as I understand it, aims to target the most serious human rights violations and punish the guilty after due process of law. The list of human rights crimes that could come within the purview of the proposed court can be carefully articulated and selected. We certainly need to walk before we can run when it comes to prosecution of human rights crimes, and that is why it would be prudent to begin modestly and end up ambitiously after the international community obtains the necessary applied experience in dealing with human rights abuses across the board.



For East Asians, too, popular consent is the way

By José T. Almonte

MANILA — Authoritarian regimes these days are essentially fragile because they are ultimately based on force. Sooner or later they must give way to governments based on popular consent.

Historically, non-democratic governments appear in times of civil disorder and economic crisis. Since they rule without popular consent, their claim to legitimacy depends on their ability to restore law and order and develop the economy.

Once civil order is restored, authoritarian governments in developing countries are undermined by both their economic failure and their economic success. If they fail to develop the economy, people naturally will replace them with more efficient government — as Filipinos replaced Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

But even if an authoritarian government succeeds in developing the economy, it creates its own downfall, because it then outlives its usefulness.

In South Korea, Taiwan and Chile, authoritarian governments, by successfully sponsoring capitalist growth, unwittingly created a private sector and a civil society of industrialists, traders, farmers, managers and professionals.

Once people became richer and more secure, they demanded political participation, a say in how they were governed and respect from their rules. When this participation and respect were refused them, people eventually turned against General Park Chung Hee in South Korea, the Kuomintang old guard in Taiwan and General Augusto Pinochet in Chile.

Economic development cannot forever be a substitute for democracy. However, East Asia's au-

thoritarian governments have generally worked so well that the world has accepted them as the norm for such regimes, rather than the exceptions they in fact are.

Similar regimes, typically led by the military, were prevalent in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe before the wave of democratisation from 1974 to 1990, when democratic governments replaced authoritarian ones in some 30 countries over the 15-year period.

East Asia's authoritarian states are unique not because of the high growth rates they have achieved. Other authoritarian countries — the best example is Brazil from 1932 to 1979 — have grown as much and for as long. What is unique about East Asia's growth is the way it has involved large numbers of people to eradicate mass poverty, ease income inequality and generate pressures for political liberalisation.

By the World Bank's estimate, mass poverty declined from 35 per cent to only 10 per cent in East Asia overall between 1970 and 1990 — despite a 40 per cent increase in the region's population during those 20 years.

Authoritarian governments in the region have generally known when the command economy reached the limits of its usefulness. In Taiwan, as in Thailand and Indonesia, they have given in with relative grace to popular pressures for political liberalisation — the ground for which they had themselves prepared by policies that emphasise income equality and social mobility, primary health care, technological education and bureaucratic merit.

The erosion of authoritarianism in East Asia is still in progress. Already the market economy has so homogenised the region's political systems that "anti-

Communist" ASEAN can effortlessly incorporate "Communist" Vietnam.

In fact, it is now more instructive to look at these political systems as graded members of a continuum rather than as distinct and contrasting categories. The characteristic transition is from "hard" to "soft" authoritarianism, which finally eases into the kind of democracy that now prevails in Taiwan and South Korea.

Even in China, politics will sooner or later catch up with economic reality. The new social groups being produced by China's economic modernisation will unavoidably generate basic political change. It will be abrupt or gradual, depending on how the Communist Party handles it.

In Burma, the martial law regime really has no long-term excuse but to come to terms with the opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi if it is to open up the country's economy and join ASEAN.

Among East Asia's authoritarian regimes, only North Korea lacks the leisure for such a transition. There the liability of a sharp break between the old and new orders is real, perhaps by way of a military coup and eventual reunification with the democratic South.

Since democracy is the region's wave of the future, is East Asian democracy any different from the Western system?

Singapore's senior minister Lee Kuan Yew, for one, believes that although East Asians may now enjoy incomes equal to middle-class people in the West, they are still far from becoming middle-class in the political sense.

Technology makes it possible to raise developing-country incomes to rich-world levels very fast — within 30 to 40 years,

compared with the 100 years it took for a Western nation starting to modernise early in the 19th century. But, Mr. Lee argues, it takes as long as ever to train a whole society to modernity, to educate people until they are capable of critical judgement, absorbing information from the written word and applying a critical eye to it."

Until ordinary people become capable of critical judgement, government is held to be justified in controlling the kind of information they receive from the outside world. This is why Mr. Lee's tight little island still censors Western magazines like Playboy and Penthouse and controls the installation of satellite dishes.

But in this effort to control the information that is people receive, Singapore is fighting a futile rearguard action against the new communications technology. Middle-class incomes make available middle-class technology. Today everybody is on real time — everybody is seeing the same thing on television at the same time. The same information generates the same economic needs, wants and hopes. It cuts across national boundaries and languages, and largely disregards ideologies as well.

All increasingly complex societies, East or West, are best ruled increasingly by conciliation and consensus if society is to become both free and orderly. And to the extent that countries accept these methods of political rule, to that extent will their political cultures converge.

The writer is presidential security adviser and director-general of the National Security Council of the Philippines. The above article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Illusion of 'greater Israel' dies with Taba deal

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

refers to "the Palestinian city of Hebron."

The "greater Israel" dream began to take on flesh in June 1967, when Israel captured the whole of the West Bank from Jordan in the six day war, setting off a wave of fervour among religious Israelis who believed that the military victory and the land had been divinely bequeathed to the Jewish people.

In May 1977, on the night he was elected as Israel's first right-wing prime minister, the late Menachem Begin declared: "There are no occupied territories — they are liberated territories."

That night ushered in a 15-year period, during which successive Israeli governments did all they could to build what they called a "greater Israel." The aim was to ensure eternal Jewish sovereignty over the occupied West Bank.

Tens of thousands of settlers were encouraged by a mixture of officially sanctioned religious and nationalistic zeal and generous financial inducements, to move to heavily armed enclaves built in the heart of a hostile Arab population.

That changed on the night of Mr. Begin's victory. The fiercely nationalist Begin endorsed the "greater Israel" goal. His government settled Jews in the very heart of Hebron and near Nablus, the largest Palestinian city in the West Bank.

The settlements soon became a focus of violence. Palestinians launched their intifada in 1987 while some militant Jewish settlers formed their own underground guerrilla movement which blew up Palestinian mayors with booby-trap bombs.

Israel's nationalist tide began to turn in 1991 when the United States arranged an unprecedented Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Even at the Madrid conference, Israel's then prime minister Yitzhak Shamir declared defiantly that his nation would never abandon the West Bank.

But the opening of peace talks changed something in Israel. The political pendulum was swinging away from the ideological right and back to the pragmatic centre.

In 1992, Labour's Rabin returned to power with a mandate to negotiate with Palestinians and other Arabs. The "greater Israel" adherents were consigned to the opposition.

Now, three years later, Mr. Rabin (is moving towards delivering) on his promise. Next year, he will face a new election and Israelis will have the chance to render their judgement.

But by that time, Israeli troops will have left Nablus and five other towns. Palestinians will be governing themselves and the right-wing Israeli dream of absorbing the West Bank will probably be gone for good.

LETTERS

Politics and professionals

To the Editor:

I FIND it quite incredible, and disturbing, that in a country as progressive as Jordan, many of the professional associations, like the Veterinary Association, can impose a political viewpoint on all their members and make this a requisite for practising their profession. These are all intelligent people, but surely they realise that the principle of imposing a lock-step mentality on their members is the same principle that leads ultimately to totalitarianism. The sooner this mentality and practice are jettisoned the better off we all will be.

When I take my sick dog to a veterinarian, my main concern, and that of my dog's, is not whether this person is for or against normalisation — that is incidental to the matter at hand. My concern is only one: Is he qualified to do what I am prepared to pay him to do, and that is to treat my dog? Period. In another context, we may sit down and discuss the pros and cons of normalisation but surely it has nothing to do with his qualifications and liberty to practise as a vet.

Bob Robertson,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

India sets eyes on \$500m trade with Jordan in 3 years

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — India seeks to raise to \$500 million its annual trade with Jordan by 1998, a high-ranking Indian trade and industry official said Sunday.

Binay Kumar, president of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), said the Indian business community was becoming aware of Jordan's "new environment" and its emergence as a regional "trading port."

According to official figures, trade between the two countries in 1994 was valued at about \$200 million, with Indian importing foods worth \$150 million from Jordan.

Mr. Kumar, who led an FICCI delegation comprised of three government officials and 10 businessmen, held talks here on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday they signed two agreements, the first with the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) and the second with the Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC). Both agreements involved enhanced cooperation between the Jordanian and FICCI.

Saturday's agreement with the ACI established a joint business council that will provide a platform for the formal exchange of business information. Exchange of visits

are to be arranged on a annual basis, Mr. Kumar said.

The agreement with the ACC made provisions for coordination, a Jordanian product exhibition in India and exchange of visits of business persons, he added.

The Indian economy has witnessed liberalisation over the last three years, allowing the importation of non-traditional products.

Traditionally, India is a large importer of the Kingdom's phosphate and potash products, said Mr. Kumar, adding that India would now look towards importing manufactured products and industrial cooperation.

"Your strategic location in the region and your trade agreements with the United States, Europe and others are very important to us," he said.

Jordan and India, he maintained, will be able to create a mutually beneficial partnership because "India has a quota problem (in textiles). We have a market and we have customers, but we have a quota problem."

He was referring to ceilings imposed by the government of Europe and the U.S. on textile imports.

Mr. Kumar rejected suggestions that joint Jordanian-Indian projects would be limited by financial restrictions.

EU pushes ahead with monetary plan

VALENCIA, Spain (AP) — European Union finance chiefs sought Saturday to quell doubts about their future common currency by pushing ahead with preparations to replace marks, francs, guilders and the rest.

They even appeared to make progress on picking a name for the new money, with the "Euro" emerging as frontrunner.

"European monetary union is definitely on track... and will go ahead according to the criteria and the timetable," EU Commission President Jacques Santer said at a news conference.

"This meeting has removed much of the ambiguity," the EU chief executive said after day-long talks among finance ministers and central bank governors from the union nations.

The drive to achieve monetary union has been overshadowed in recent weeks by uncertainty over

whether key nations, including France and Italy, will be able to meet strict financial conditions for joining the single currency club by 1999.

Ministers here pledged to redouble their efforts to reach the targets of low inflation and interest rates, slim budget deficits, modest debt and stable exchange rates.

"We have no intention of letting our public finances backslide," said French Finance Minister Jean Arthuis.

Despite the upbeat tone, the meeting in a luxury hotel beside the Mediterranean Sea failed to convince everyone the currency union was out of danger.

Governments must prove they are prepared to push through unpopular spending cuts or tax increases need to bring their deficits down to the 3 per cent of gross national product demanded by his suggestion.

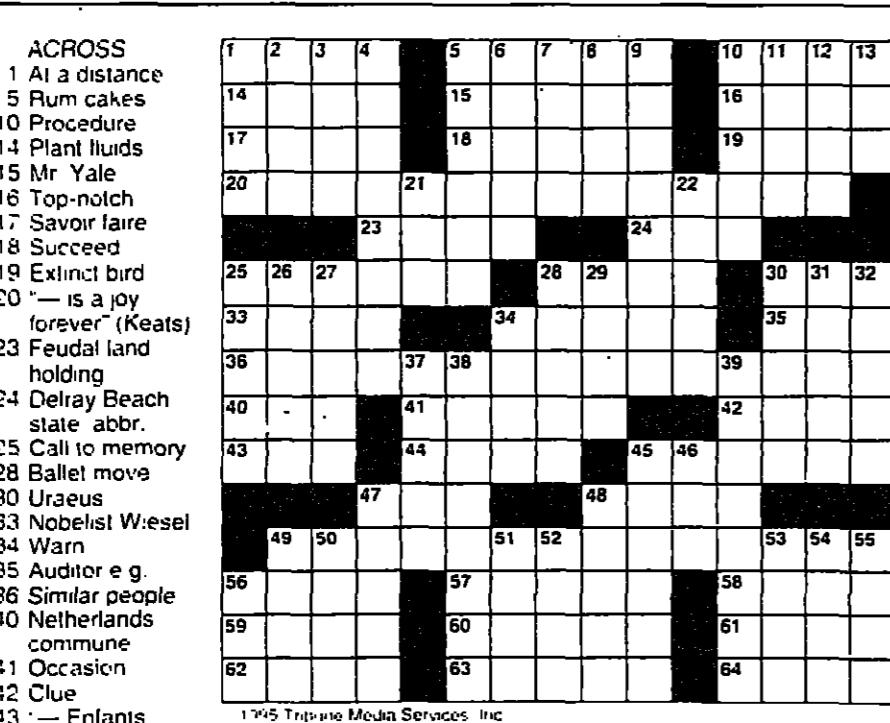
He also got backing for his ideas on what to call the future currency, with a number of ministers backing the "Euro."

France, however, was unenthusiastic, preferring the "ECU," which is currently used for EU accounting and stands for European currency unit.

Germany, the EU's economic powerhouse, has insisted

A decision on the name is

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's puzzle solved:

10 It city	11 Pillage	12 A Rooney	13 Modern pret.	21 Writer Anais	22 Prince Valiant's beloved	25 Oppose authority	26 Orni a syllable	27 Bogs down	28 Factory	29 Went	30 on one's shoulder	31 Exhausted	32 Divides	34 "Good Men"	37 Madrid man	36 Certain collector's coin	39 Dysart movie	45 Stick	46 Gambling cube	47 Plummets
1 Movie dog	2 Accomplishment	3 Principal	4 Confirmed	5 Supplicated	6 Unconcerned	7 Whack	8 Husband of Jezebel	9 Certain	10 It city	11 Pillage	12 A Rooney	13 Modern pret.	14 It	15 Aruba	16 Slum rare	17 Gamut	18 Humble epiphany	19 Ebs	20 Pebble fair	
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to forge a "good partnership." The two countries will be able to act as gateways for each other. India will be a gateway for Jordan's market in Asia and South Asia while Jordan will be India's to the Middle East region and Europe, Mr. Kumar said.

Jordan's and the region's traditional trade links with India are founded upon India's exportation of tea, coffee and leather, he said.

Prior to the three-day visit to Amman, the delegation visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"The delegation's visit is an advanced team in preparation for the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) economic summit," he said. Awareness is low (in the region) and the (Indian) government is looking for alliances," said Mr. Kumar, who is also the chairman of Banaras House Limited, an export-import company with offices throughout India and several European and North American cities.

Mr. Kumar expected that India to be represented at the MENA summit by 50 to 60 people representing India's public and private sectors, but he hoped for the participation of more businesspersons.

Mr. Kumar rejected suggestions that joint Jordanian-Indian projects would be limited by financial restrictions.

Iraq fears may hit Kuwait economy

— Al Shall

KUWAIT (R) — Fresh Kuwaiti government expressions of concern about former occupier Iraq are ill-founded and could hamper the Gulf country's economic reforms, a private economic consultancy said Saturday.

"Thirty per cent of the (Indian) economy is directly or indirectly based on small- and medium-scale production," he said, emphasising that enterprises of this kind offer more employment opportunities.

Joint projects now up for consideration as a result of the delegation's visit to the Kingdom, Mr. Kumar said, include a hotel and joint projects in the leather and ready-made garment industries.

Following meetings with the directors-general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company, Mr. Kumar said the talks underlined the need for increased exports of derivatives of phosphates and potash in exchange for an increase of Indian imports to the Kingdom.

"We are looking for a better balance of trade," Mr. Kumar asserted, but added that the results of the discussions would have to be reviewed.

The FICCI delegation returns home today.

Amman stocks rise on strength of banks demand

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's exchange was steady at start of weekly trade on Saturday with some speculative buying along with a large bloc sale on Arab Bank, dealers said.

The index of the Amman Financial Market rose to 159.76 points, up a slight 0.06 per cent from 159.67 on Wednesday.

The value of shares traded rose to JD 4,709,599 from JD 1,152,604 on Wednesday. Trading was moderate, with 658 contracts executed for 947,693 shares.

The market kept the momentum of a buying spree on select speculative stock triggered mostly by local traders and some outside buying on select blue chip that helped underpin the exchange since last week.

Traders said although

there was no change in the market, optimism of a rebound is underpinning current price levels.

"There is room for an improvement in prices, with buying and speculation of some stock that allows for optimism, although one cannot rely on 100 per cent," one broker said.

In banks, the leading sector, Arab Bank — a major component in the official 60-share index — rose JD 500 to JD 243,000 on large bloc transfer valued at JD 3,041,805 — more than two thirds of daily volume.

The market kept the momentum of a buying spree on select speculative stock triggered mostly by local traders and some outside buying on select blue chip that helped underpin the exchange since last week.

Traders said although

Arab stock markets end week higher

DUBAI (R) — Share prices on most Arab stock markets edged higher last week, with the United Arab Emirates' index soaring to a year high on solid gains by leading

foreign institutions weighed in with millions of pounds.

Brokers said buying by two mutual funds, the second set up by each of Banque Misr and National Bank of Egypt,

was one of the biggest factors behind the long-awaited re-

valve.

In Saudi Arabia, speculative buying sent trading in the market sharply higher, but the share index edged lower losing 0.8 per cent to 139.89 points from the previous 141.04.

Economist Anzar Ahmed, vice-president of the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment in Riyadh, said the market was boosted in the past few months mainly by an increase in the share prices of Riyad Bank and the Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC).

Egyptian stocks slipped and volume fell amid caution in

spired by government expressions of concern about former occupier Iraq. The price index fell one per cent and the value of traded shares declined 47.5 per cent.

In Morocco, the Casablanca Bourse was lower although some stocks rose significantly as a result of interest generated by publication of a rush of half-yearly results. The index closed at 329.09 points from a previous 330.83.

In Oman and Qatar, share prices ended higher in moderate trade. Bahrain's official share index lost 1.79 points.

Solidere shares on the Beirut secondary market were stable.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be sure to keep promises made in business and you get fine results. It is important you agree with ideas of your mate also.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Be alert to exactly what is that others are saying today or you could misinterpret their true meaning and get into trouble which could be costly to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure that you get duties handled today and don't run off on any tangents. Avoid taking risks while out driving on the highway.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You should steer clear of that friend who is in a bad humour today otherwise you soon lose your joie de vivre. Think constructively about some new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may feel that you are too tied down with family obligations today, but handle them well just the same and all eases up.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use wisdom in handling transportation matters today. Don't take up any moot points in correspondence directed towards important individuals.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You feel you do not have enough financial means to keep out of the red today, but by careful planning and analysis, you do all right.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You feel stymied in gaining your personal wishes today, so take it easy and await the morrow. Don't fuss and fume about a situation you have no control over.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You feel depressed and should seek the company of cheerful individuals today who can help brighten your spirits to get your activities completed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new friend desires something you own and could give you a rough time today, but don't give in to undo pressure. Be with cheerful persons you know.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be sure to hold your temper in the outside world today otherwise you could get into serious trouble. Follow all rules and instructions provided to you.

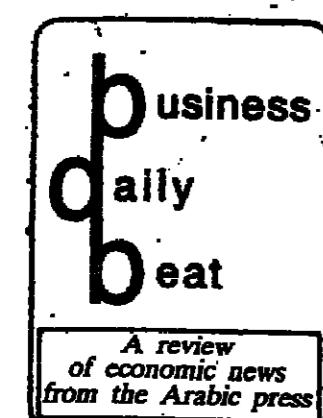
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want badly to get into new projects and interests today, but first you have to keep any promises which you have made towards others.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

Peanuts



Business & Finance



Dabbas: '96 state budget to exceed JD 1,600 million

Hashem Dabbas, Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee, said the Kingdom's 1996 general budget would exceed JD 1,400 million and would take into consideration recent developments, mainly those related to the Middle East peace process, aiming to enable the government to tackle unemployment through establishing development projects. Dr. Dabbas described the next year's fiscal budget as "the peace budget" since it follows the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will start in Amman Oct. 29. Noting that Jordan received many pledges for support from international parties concerned with the cause of peace in the Middle East, Dr. Dabbas said all regional and international parties are keen to enable Jordan to attract foreign investment and capital. The deputy stressed the need to have the upcoming general budget balanced in terms of revenue and expenditure, to reduce the budget deficit, noting that it will be complementary to this year's general budget. Dr. Dabbas said Jordan will be a main

centre of distributing Qatari natural gas and will try to launch several major projects aiming to offer job opportunities to the unemployed. (Al Dustour)

* The Amman Chamber of Industry will present JD 25,000 in financial support for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will open in Amman at the end of the month, chamber President Khalid Abu Hassan announced. Mr. Abu Hassan said the chamber will also prepare an updated guidebook on the Jordanian economy, the industrial sector and the names of Jordanian companies and their products. (Al Ra'i)

* The Jordanian Businessmen Council is taking part in a meeting of private sector representatives of member states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be organised by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the Egyptian Chambers of Commerce Federation in Cairo in the period Sept. 30-Oct. 3. The council is represented at the meeting by board member Farouq Al Azeh. (Al Dustour)

Note from editor:
Due to a translation error, the second item that appeared in this column yesterday mistakenly listed the "Arab Bank" as one of the founders of the Universal Hotel for Tourism PLC instead of "Arab Land Bank."

United Arab Emirates to buy 2 satellites

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to buy two satellites for commercial uses, becoming the first Arab state to possess its own satellite facility, officials said on Sunday.

The government-controlled Etisalat, the sole telecommunication institution in the UAE, discussed the project at a board meeting on Sunday, according to its director general, Sultan Al Owais.

"The board discussed a feasibility study on the two satellite projects and decided to go ahead with the purchase of both satellites," he told reporters.

The UAE, a key Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil producer, is already a main subscriber to two Arab satellites currently in orbit. The Arab Satellites Organisation

(ARABSAT), which owns the two, plans to launch a third one to face growing demand.

Etisalat officials said the satellite project was prompted by a large expansion in telecommunication networks in the emirates, with the installation of an average 120,000 lines every year.

The UAE currently has 650,000 telephones, 120,000 mobile phones and 200,000 pagers, in addition to more than 1,100 subscribers to the sophisticated Internet system, introduced this year.

Etisalat, with a capital of 1.5 billion dirhams (\$408 million), also plans to buy a second ship for the repair and maintenance of marine cables.

Financial Markets *Jordan Times*
In co-operation with

Weekly Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 25-September 29, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit depreciated marginally against the mark and sterling last week, while stabilising against the yen. It ended the week 0.28 per cent lower against the mark and 0.64 per cent lower against sterling.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Monday, recouping some of its previous week losses. Reports indicated that trading was slow ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting the following day. Analysts expected that the FOMC meeting will not result in monetary easing as evidence suggest that the U.S. economy is picking up steam. The dollar also gained ground on expectations that the Bank of Japan, the Fed, and the Bundesbank might intervene in the market to support. The expectations were dashed when the Bundesbank president cast doubt that Germany would participate in future intervention efforts.

The U.S. unit continued its appreciation against other major currencies Tuesday, as the mark lost ground against other European currencies. Reports indicated that the rebound of the French franc and the Italian lira against the mark lent support to the dollar. The dollar was also supported by the decision of the FOMC to leave U.S. interest rates unchanged.

However, the U.S. unit, retreated against other major currencies Wednesday, on the back of a weak U.S. bond market. The bond market declined upon the release of U.S. Durable Goods Orders, which hinted at a strong U.S. economy. U.S. Durable Goods Orders rose by 4.9 per cent in August, far above analysts' expectations. The statistics supported analysts' view that there is no need for the Fed to trim U.S. interest rates as its next meeting.

The dollar continued its depreciation Thursday. It declined on worries about the future of the European monetary union, which prompted dealers to buy safe haven Swiss francs and Deutschmarks. The U.S. unit came under further pressure when dealers sold dollars for yen in anticipation of large-scale demand for the yen Friday, ahead of the Japanese fiscal half-year.

The U.S. unit appreciated against the mark and yen at the end of the week, while depreciating against sterling. Reports indicated that the dollar rebounded as dealers took their profits on the Swiss franc and the Deutschmark. Profit taking began after the president of the Swiss National Bank said that the Swiss franc is overvalued at current levels and posed risks for foreign investors in Swiss assets. Meanwhile, dealers were reluctant to take new positions ahead of the IMF meeting the next week.

At the same time, analysts were waiting to see whether the IMF meeting will bring about results that will back up the G-7 meeting last April, which called for an orderly reversal of the dollar's decline.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.4275 marks, 99.73 yen and at 1.5843 dollars to sterling.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 1995-10-29

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7100	0.7120
Sterling Pound	1.1228	1.1264
Deutsche Mark	0.4966	0.5001
Swiss Franc	0.6138	0.6164
French Franc	0.1440	0.1447
Japanese Yen*	0.7101	0.7137
Dutch Guilder	0.4438	0.4460
Swedish Krona		
Italian Lira*	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc		

*Yen 100 New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Friday Sept. 22 - 1995 Close	Friday Sept. 29 - 1995 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5743	1.5843	0.64 %
Deutsche Mark	1.4235	1.4275	(0.28) %
Swiss Franc	1.1465	1.1548	(0.72) %
French Franc	4.9290	4.9240	0.10 %
Japanese Yen*	99.95	99.73	0.22 %

* USD per SFR.

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

(Current 1 Month 1 Year 1-Semi 1-Year 12-Month 12-Year)

U.S. Dollar 5.90 5.75 5.78 5.75

Sterling Pound 6.69 6.69 6.62 6.75

Deutsche Mark 3.87 4.06 4.00 3.94

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding US Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

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Note from editor:
Due to a translation error, the second item that appeared in this column yesterday mistakenly listed the "Arab Bank" as one of the founders of the Universal Hotel for Tourism PLC instead of "Arab Land Bank."

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Saudi Arabia again employing Yemenis

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has opened its doors to the employment of Yemenis, five years after it sent home hundreds of thousands of Yemenis over their country's sympathy with Iraq during the Gulf war. Arab diplomats said on Sunday.

They said employment departments at the Labour Ministry have over the past month started accepting requests for the hiring of Yemenis, but on condition they have a Saudi sponsor.

Before the 1990 Gulf crisis Yemenis did not need a sponsor in the kingdom.

"There is no idea now how

many have returned, but it is expected that hundreds of thousands of Yemenis will eventually come to work in the kingdom," one diplomat said.

Saudi Arabia, like its Gulf allies, was angered in 1990 when Yemen, then a member of the United Nations Security Council, voted against a U.N. resolution sanctioning the 1991 Gulf war to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

It cut vital financial and

political aid to Sanaa and sent home hundreds of thousands of Yemenis working there, putting more pressure on a weak economy and a high unemployment rate.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul-Aziz was on Friday quoted as saying Saudi organisations were welcome to bring Yemeni workers to the kingdom. He said he was optimistic a border dispute between the two countries was being solved.

A Saudi-Yemeni military committee started talks in the kingdom on Saturday on reducing troop numbers along their disputed border. The committee is also expected to tackle the issue of demarcating the potentially oil-rich frontier, which has been in dispute for 60 years.

The two states reached a memorandum of understanding to resolve the dispute in February following months of border clashes and tension between the once close allies.

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IC	920	225100	243.000 245.000
ONAL BANK	950	4248	4.470 4.470
DAN	9413	32946	3.500 3.500
INVESTMENT BANK	29150	37314	1.290 1.280
DEVELOPMENT BANK	923	2223	2.420 2.410
IT BANK	910	2511	2.780 2.760
BANK	163981	199628	1.210 1.200
KIC BANK	790	2938	3.740 3.720
FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	6139	23303	3.800 3.750
KK	150	533	3.590 3.550
STRENT & FINANCE BANK	499	1906	3.780 3.820
SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	100	337	3.370 3.370
FOR INVESTMENT	41600	39934	0.960 0.960
A INVESTMENT BANK	2600	4099	1.580 1.590
S E C T O R		258125	577019 INDEX NUMBER: 194.89
CH INSURANCE		1400	3783 INDEX NUMBER: 194.89
CHANGE : +0.53%			
A N C E S S E C T O R		1400	3783 INDEX NUMBER: 132.51
CHANGE : 0.00%			
C E S S E C T O R		64642	362861 INDEX NUMBER: 128.20
CHANGE : -0.08%			
CEMENT FACTORIES		22577	81821 3.620 3.630
PHATE MINES		500	1500 3.010 3.000
OLIGM REFINERY		3478	32899 9.450 9.460
ITAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL		115	377 3.240 3.280
WORSTED MILLS		250	1863 7.600 7.450
CENTICAL MANUFACTURING		960	4679 4.890 4.870
WEAVING		500	900 1.810 1.800
TUN INDUSTRY		419	2211 5.300 5.280
POULTRY		368650	261996 0.690 0.710
CONVERTING & TRADING		1750	2503 1.430 1.430
DUSTRIES		3528	3847 1.100 1.090
WOOL INDUSTRIES		1000	1080 1.100 1.080
BLD & WIRE MANUFACTURING		572	2494 4.300 4.360
SO-CHEMICALS		500	720 1.460 1.440
FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS		112	235 2.100 2.100
ESTIMENT		250	413 1.660 1.650
ODERI INDUSTRIES			

Jubilation in Yemen after Naseem Hamad becomes world champion

SANAA (AFP) — Tens of thousands of people poured into the streets of Yemen's capital and other main cities early Sunday to celebrate boxer Naseem Hamad's World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title victory.

The celebrations went on until dawn after Hamad, a Briton whose family originate from Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, became world champion by defeating Welshman Steve Robinson in Cardiff.

"God is great. Naseem has given the entire world another image of Yemen," the crowds chanted, after Hamad's victory when the referee stopped the bout in the eighth round of the contest.

President Ali Abdallah Saleh, who decorated Hamad earlier this year, telephoned the boxer to congratulate him on his win.

State television played patriotic music and halted its programme schedules to announce the victory and proclaim Hamad, whose family came from the southern city of Radaa, a national hero.

Millions of Yemenis, chewing large quantities of qat, a leaf containing a stimulant, gathered around their television sets to watch the fight which was relayed by the London-based Saudi television station MBC.

In the past few years, Yemen has had little to celebrate after a series of political crises and an armed conflict between the government and separatists in the south from May to July last year which ended in victory for Saleh.

Puerto Rican referee Ismael Fernandez stopped the one-sided fight in the eighth round, as Robinson could clearly no longer take the punishment, or the taunt-

ing from his opponent.

Time and again, Hamad ducked and swayed away from Robinson's punches, frustrating the Welshman before punishing him with his lightning fists.

Hamad almost played with Robinson in the opening round before going to work, grinning and shimmying, to leave the champion bemused and without armoury.

Robinson soldiered on, his chin standing up to the bombardment, taking a world-class upper cut in the third which would have despatched many nine-stomers.

The Welshman fought his way through it, but his right eye was swelling badly before his resistance began to crumble.

Two right upper cuts and a left hand in the fifth sent Robinson down for only the second time in his career.

He pulled himself up at three to take the remainder of the eight count and then denied the Englishman victory in the sixth.

The crowd chanted Robinson's name, but Hamad cruelly chanted it back in the champion's face. It must have been the final demoralising straw.

By the seventh it seemed as if Robinson's only remaining mission was to try to survive to the final bell.

His right eye was almost shut and Hamad finished the proceedings with chilling suddenness in the eighth.

A thunderbolt left crashed on to Robinson's chin and when he went down for the second time referee Fernandez waved his arms wide in an act of mercy.

Hamad took his unbeaten professional record to 20 victories.



Prince Naseem Hamad goes in with a right hook on defending champion Steve Robinson during the WBO (World Boxing Organisation) featherweight title fight September 30. Hamad won the fight after putting Robinson down in the eighth round (Reuters photo)

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Auction for the lease of plots of land for tourism development on the Eastern Shore of the Dead Sea (Suweimeh).

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation / The Jordan Valley Authority announces its intention to auction the lease of plots of land for tourism investment projects on the Eastern Shore of the Dead Sea / Suweimeh . Those who wish to participate in the auction are invited to contact the Ministry of Water and Irrigation / Jordan Valley Authority - The Department of Land and Rural Development as of September 30, 1995, to obtain a copy of the auction terms according to the following:

- Two plots of land, temporary numbers 1 & 2 basin 39 (Farshat Ain Ghazal). These lie directly on the sea shore to the north of the Dead Sea Spa Hotel. Area of each plot is about 64 dunums.
- The plots will be suitable for building hotels and/or tourist villages of four or five star standard.
- Last date for obtaining auction terms is fixed on Saturday, October 7th, 1995.
- A site group visit will be arranged for the bidders on Monday, October 9th, 1995.
- Offers shall be deposited in the bids box located at the Jordan Valley Authority / Department of Land and Rural Development no later than 2 p.m. on Monday October 25, 1995.
- The Jordan Valley Authority will advertise the availability of lease for the plots of land within the Suweimeh development area located to the east and west of the main road as soon as the studies are completed by the Engineering Consultant commissioned by the Jordan Valley Authority.
- All interested investors are invited to submit bids, including those who had previously submitted pre-qualification statements.

Secretary General
Jordan Valley Authority
Eng. Hashim Ashboul

Tanui wins half marathon crown

BELFORT, France (AFP) — Kenyan Moses Tanui outstripped compatriots Paul Yego and Charles Tangus to win the World Championship Half Marathon crown here Sunday.

Tanui, the fastest man ever over the distance and the 1991 10,000m world champion, broke away 100m from the finish to time 1hr 01min 45sec.

Fourth place went to Spain's Antonio Serano.

Tanui was the clear pre-race favourite after Morocco's Khalid Skah, the winner last year, and Belgian Vincent Rousseau, the 1993 champion, had scratched from the field.

His world best over the half marathon, 59min 47sec, came two years ago in the Stramilano event.

Valentina Yegorova of Russia won the women's title after breaking away in the final two kilometres.

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New foreign talent fires up first day of Singapore semi-pro play

SINGAPORE (AP) — Inspired by local interest in the highly popular National Basketball Association (NBA), Singapore has taken its first shaky steps to launch big time basketball here.

The Warriors beat Empire 100-90 and the Eagles defeated the Dragons 103-85 Saturday to open the first season of semi-pro ball, which promoters hope to turn into a fully professional operation within five years.

Cheerleaders during the timeouts and a basket shooting contest for the fans at halftime gave the games a bit of U.S.-style pizzazz for 3,000 enthusiastic soccer fans at the refurbished Geylang Stadium.

In terms of individual skill and teamwork, the quality of play was nowhere near prime collegiate offerings in the United States, but it promises to satisfy fans in a city-state of 3 million where informal basketball is second only to soccer.

China were imported.

Teams were given new names to attract non-Chinese fans. The Warriors were known last year as Sin Kee, Empire as Sheng Hong Temple, Eagles as Gong Shan Old Boys' Association and Dragons as Tong Whye.

The Basketball Association of Singapore assessed the strength of each team and assigned the foreigners so that they would start the six-week season evenly balanced.

Elsewhere, at least three private enterprise groups based in Australia, the United States and Hong Kong are competing to set up the first professional basketball league spanning the Asia-Pacific region.

The NBA has offices in Japan and Australia — the two most developed and affluent basketball nations in the Asia-Pacific. The NBA has 2,250 consumer outlets in Japan selling its licensed products, a league spokesman said.

Olajuwon expected to miss first week of teams' training camp

HOUSTON (AP) — Hakeem Olajuwon likely will miss the first week of the Houston Rockets' training camp because of the sore back that kept him from playing in a one-on-one duel with Shaquille O'Neal.

"I don't think I can think about opening camp right now," Olajuwon told a local radio station Saturday. "I think it will take a couple of weeks at least."

The Rockets, who won their second straight world championship in June, are scheduled to open camp Oct. 6.

Olajuwon was slated to face O'Neal in a \$1 million duel broadcast on pay-per-view Saturday night in Atlantic City, New Jersey. But the event was canceled Friday because of Olajuwon's

back problem.

Olajuwon said he is taking medication for the ailment and is not in pain from the injury, which he sustained while lifting weights.

"It's just my movement that's restricted," he said of his lower back problem.

After playing pickup ball in Houston, he said he felt fine until he got home.

"I couldn't get out of my car. I stiffened up and couldn't move," said Olajuwon, who said he had been training all summer for three things: The O'Neal matchup, the McDonald's championships in London later this month and the Rockets' NBA title defense.

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♦984
♦AJ6542

SOUTH
♦76
♦KQJ107632
♦2
♦Q8

The bidding:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1-2 Dbl Pass 4-5
5-6 Pass 5-6
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
West bid 1 club and play of this hand. Decide if anyone made any errors in either department, and name the culprit.

We have always maintained that, when the opponents bid your best suit, you should stay out of the auction. We might have some sympathy for a one-spade overall by North, but never a second double with a void in the opponents' suit is equally strange. Had North passed initially and East responded one spade, South's jump to four hearts might have shut out the clubs. Seven clubs is a cheap sacrifice. At least give North credit for recognizing the highly distributional nature of partner's hand and getting the pair to slams.

East led the king of diamonds and East bid the jack of clubs as a suit preference signal, showing a spade card. Dealer won the spade shift, cashed the remaining high spade, then ruffed two clubs in dummy, using diamond ruffs as entries to hand. Making six-odd.

A seemingly normal result except for a slip in the defense — East can cash a club contract. As often happens, the misdeemeanor occurred at the first trick.

Instead of discarding on the king of diamonds, East should have ruffed partner's trick and returned a trump! Then declarer can ruff only one club on the board and, since no one has any sort of master, declarer must eventually lose a club as well.

Remember that old bit of advice about not trumping partner's winner, particularly if it is an ace? Change that to read unless it is absolutely necessary to defeat the contract!

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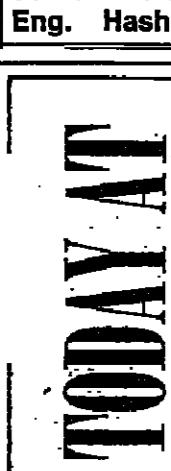
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NUT SHELL
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

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Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:45
CONCORD "2"
POLICE ACADEMY
"MISSION TO MOSCOW"
Shows: 4, 6, 8, 10

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Hi Citizen
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Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh

Schumacher stuns Alesi with superb win

NURBURGRING, Germany (AP) — World championship leader Michael Schumacher of Germany won the European Grand Prix here Sunday, virtually ensuring his second world title in a row after Britain's Damon Hill failed to finish.

Schumacher's brilliant win boosted his world championship lead over Hill to 27 points with only three races to go.

Hill needed to win here to stay in contention but instead damaged his car in one serious incident and then skidded off the track in his Williams with eight laps to go. His Williams teammate and compatriot David Coulthard was third.

Alesi drove a superb race, starting from sixth place on the grid on dry-weather tyres and fighting his way into an imposing lead early on which he only relinquished once on a pit stop until the final showdown with Schumacher.

It was Alesi who destroyed Hill's hopes, when the Briton tried to slip past him on a bend with half the race

remaining and Alesi closed the door decisively. He clipped a front wing off the Williams in the process and Hill was forced into the pits.

When he emerged more than 30 seconds later with his car patched up, he had slumped from second to eighth place.

The Briton had earlier won the dog-fight with Schumacher for second place after both drivers went into the pits to switch wet weather tyres for dry ones as the morning rain cleared and the sodden Nurburgring dried out.

But after Hill's tangle with Alesi, Schumacher moved into second spot and closed a wide gap on the Ferrari to under one second before his third pit stop, though impressively fast, left him over 22 seconds behind.

That appeared to leave him too much to do. But that was reckoning without Schumacher's grit and determination and he quickly reduced the deficit, finally taking the Ferrari on the inside to the cheers of the home crowd.

Lammtarra wins L'Arc de Triomphe

PARIS (AP) — Lammtarra made a brilliant stretch run to win the L'Arc de Triomphe race Sunday to stay unbeaten for his career and become the first horse since 1971 to complete an impressive Triple victory.

The British horse, ridden by Lefranc Dettori and trained by Saeed bin Suroor, took the lead with about 600 metres to go in the 2,400-metre (1 1/2-mile) race and stubbornly stayed in front from the rest of the way.

Second was Freedom Cry, who made a late rush to come less than a length behind with Swain third and Lando fourth.

Dettori was in command of his horse through the fine run down the straightaway.

"This horse is like a lion and doesn't know when to get beat," Dettori said after the victory.

The victory was worth four million francs (\$800,000) to the owner, Maktoum Al Maktoum.

It was the first time since Mill Reef in 1971 that any horse had taken the English Derby (Epsom), King

George VI (Ascot) and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe triple in a year.

Lammtarra's time was 2 minutes, 30 seconds and went off at odds of approximately 2 to 1.

Lammtarra also was the first British horse to win since 1989 when Carroll House won.

Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan sent a message to the rest of the premiership after the 3-0 win at Goodison.

"We look like a team

Newcastle wins at Everton

LONDON (AP) — Eric Cantona made an immediate impact on his return to English football Sunday, but Newcastle went marching on at the top of the premiership.

Cantona, banned since January, crafted United's opener against Liverpool with just over a minute gone. He later converted a penalty after Ryan Giggs had been brought down while running on to the Frenchman's through ball.

In between, Robbie Fowler struck twice for Liverpool and the points were shared.

Liverpool left complaining about another penalty decision that wasn't awarded. Boss Roy Evans said: "We lost two points because of a dodgy decision."

He added: "I take heart from the performance of the lads and I'm sick for them."

Evans added on the return of Cantona: "We had to be sensible about it. Manchester United against Liverpool is bigger than Eric Cantona or anybody."

Alex Ferguson was delighted with the Frenchman's contribution.

"I thought he did well. He was obviously very tired at the end but that is to be expected."

Asked whether he'd had any reservations about Cantona taking the penalty kick after such a long lay-off, Ferguson said: "You must be joking."

United could have been playing to go to the top of the premiership but the other Liverpool team, Everton, had found Newcastle in irresistible form earlier in the day.

Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan sent a message to the rest of the premiership after the 3-0 win at Goodison.

"We look like a team

who can win something this season," he said.

The goals came from Les Ferdinand — his 100th in English football — Robert Lee from the penalty spot and substitute Paul Kitson, with Anders Limpar replying for outclassed Everton.

Keegan picked out Ferdinand and Lee as being key to the club's seventh win in eight league outings.

He said: "That was as good a performance as I have seen from a centre forward. He led the line

67th-minute equaliser to deny Millwall the chance of going to the top.

Millwall's goals came from Alex Rae in the seventh minute and Kingsley Black in the 26th. Derby's first equaliser came from Rob Willens in the 10th minute, his first goal since his 300,000-pound summer move from Grasshoppers Zurich.

In the Italian league, leaders AC Milan saw their 100 per cent start to the Italian season ruined by a shock 1-

0 defeat at Bari after having international midfielder Demetrio Albertini sent off.

Before rounding Angelo Peruzzi and rolling the ball into an open net.

Within four minutes, Gianluca Vialli levelled and Juventus, visibly tired after their midweek European Cup win over Steaua Bucharest, held on for a point as Napoli's Brazilian sweeper Andre Cruz struck the bar in the closing minutes.



European soccer roundup

superbly and put himself about in the best possible way.

Everton manager Joe Royle talks about his dogs of war. I have one of my own in Lee. He edged out John Ebbrell and Joe Parkinson in tackles and then his skill took him through."

Everton have now lost four premiership games on the trot and Royle said: "I am very disappointed. We have got to get back to that relegation spirit of last year, which took us away from trouble."

"If Newcastle maintain that sort of form they must make a title challenge. Ferdinand makes a difference."

In division one, derby captain Robin Van Der Laan rescued his team with a

goal September 30 after a free kick by Bremen's Mario Basler.

The match ended in a 2-2 draw (Reuters photo)

Other Bundesliga matches played Saturday were as following:

Bayer Leverkusen 2 Werder Bremen 2; Freiburg 1 Schalke 2; 1860 Munich 2 Fortuna Duesseldorf 1; Karlsruhe 0 Hansa Rostock 2; Kaiserslautern 1 Cologne 1

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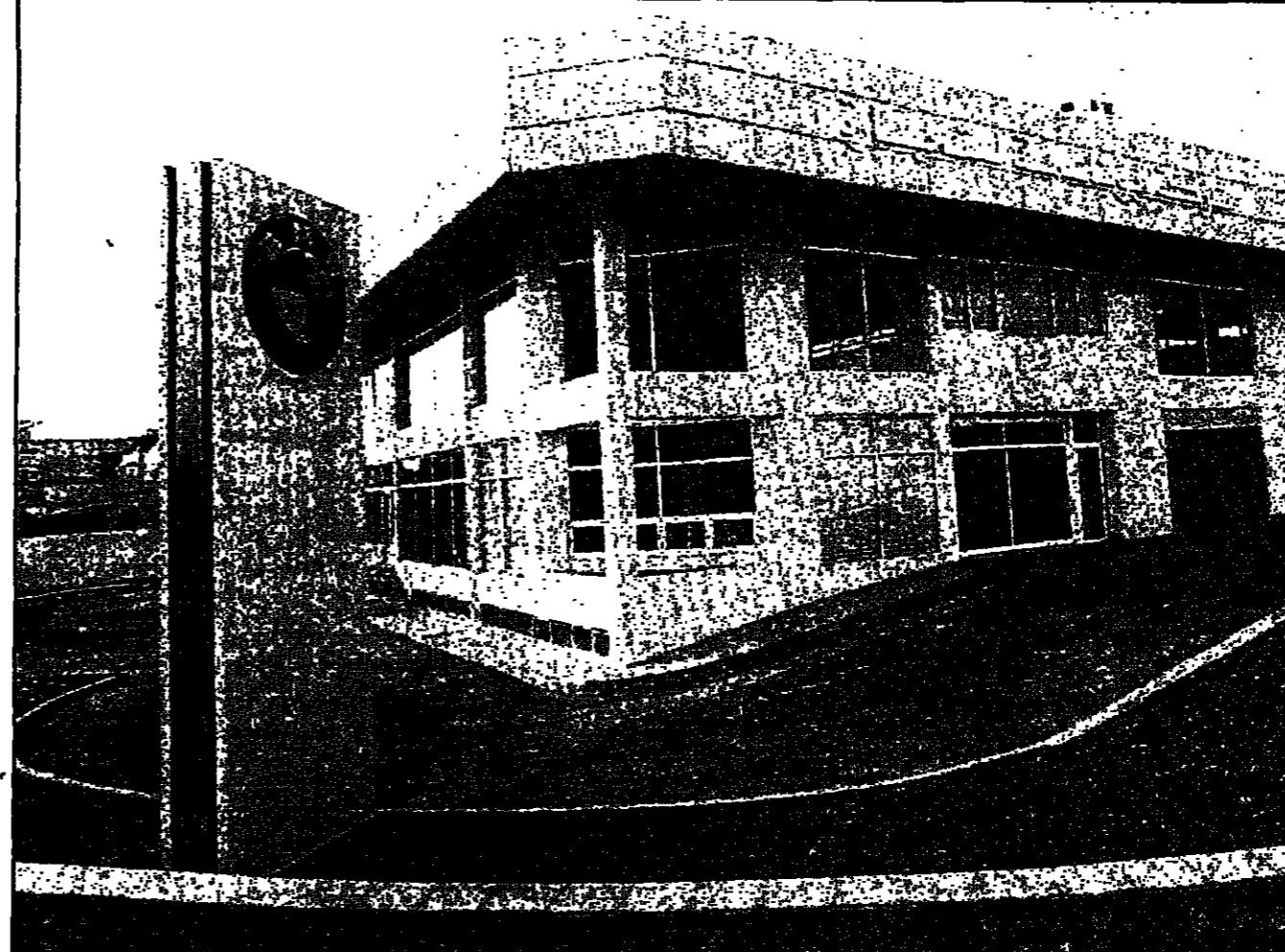
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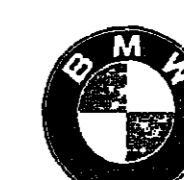
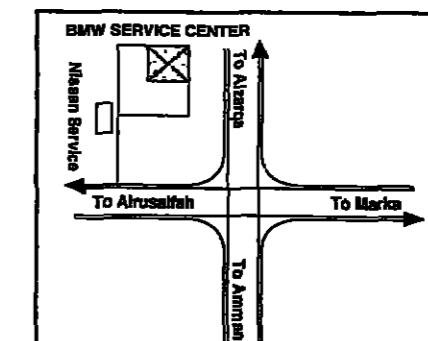
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LAST TOWN TO BE FREE: A Palestinian woman carries sacks of vegetables on her head in the market of the old city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli army will start pulling out of most other towns in the West Bank this month in line with an agreement it signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington on Thursday, but will not leave Hebron until March. The Israeli army will retain its control of the town until them in what it describes as an effort to "protect" the 420 Jewish settlers who live there among 120,000 Palestinians (see story on page 1) (AFP photo)

Jordan promotes joint ventures ahead of summit

By Suleiman Al Khalidi

Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said on Sunday it hoped an international economic summit, due to open this month, would lead to specific joint venture deals to help Arab-Israeli peace.

"The vision we have is one of investing in the future of the Middle East and not selling goods and services..." Omayya Touqan, who heads the national committee preparing for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, told foreign reporters.

More than 1,000 government leaders and businessmen are due to attend the Oct. 29-31 summit that will look into investment opportunities in the Middle East.

It is a follow-up to last year's Casablanca economic summit that for the first time brought together Arab and Israeli political and business leaders.

Dr. Touqan, who is also director of the Amman Stock Exchange (AFM), said Jordan expected firm business deals to be sealed during the summit in contrast with the largely political Casablanca summit last year which helped businessmen make contacts.

Unlike Casablanca, where we exchanged business cards, and declared that the region was open to business, the clear message of the Amman summit to the international business community is that the region is already open for business.

He said Jordan's private sector was looking for equity partners and joint projects: "Not debt facilities." In over 100 projects to be presented, they cover agriculture, tourism, industries and financial services.

"We are looking for joint venture and equity partners... we do not want any financial or debt facilities or loans."

Dr. Touqan said foreign



Omaya Touqan.

Rabin is bashed for criticising American Jewish leaders

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is alienating U.S. Jews by attacking them for dwindling financial contributions and growing criticism of his peace policies, said the Israeli official in charge of ties to world Jewry.

"We should not launch an attack on all U.S. Jews. That would be a mistake of historical proportions," said Avraham Burg, head of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency.

capital would be encouraged into expanding existing viable ventures and promote mergers.

Dr. Touqan said Jordan was doing its part to attract foreign investment by a package of economic laws recently passed that has created a more favourable business climate.

He said Jordan hoped a declaration at the end of the summit would announce the creation of a proposed \$5 billion Middle East development bank, although its fate was uncertain.

Dr. Touqan admitted that the body was still a centre of debate between its backers and the European Union (EU).

Europeans oppose it on grounds there are enough lenders in the region with the EU itself pledging over \$1 billion in grants and loans. It has proposed a smaller body to link those needing assistance with appropriate financing agencies.

Many diplomats and businessman have doubts what will be accomplished at the summit seeing as a comprehensive peace has still not been reached in the Middle East.

Syria and Lebanon, key partners to any regional projects, will stay away from the conference because their bilateral peace talks with Israel have not achieved much progress.

Kuwait is studying report

(Continued from page 1)

Resolution 949 of October 1994 requires Iraq never again send to the south the units it had deployed near Kuwait's border earlier that month sparking off a 10-day standoff with Kuwait and its allies.

Kuwait's Crown Prince

Iraq promised total openness on arms programmes – Ekeus

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has pledged to reveal everything on its banned weapons programme, the senior U.N. official responsible for dismantling Iraq's mass destruction arsenal said here Sunday.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraqi disarmament, said there were still several issues that needed clearing up but Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz had promised to be completely open with arms inspectors.

"Mr. Aziz expressed the policy of openness of Iraq, not to obstruct the personnel involved and not to keep secrets any more and to reveal everything to make it possible to verify the declaration of Iraq," he said.

"This is the positive side. On the problem side, there are issues remaining to be cleared up," concerning Iraq's missile, chemical and germ warfare programme, he added.

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq still had some missiles equipped with chemical warheads. "There are some missiles left but I really do not want to disclose publicly. There are problems with counting the missile warheads, especially biological and chemical war-

heads."

Iraq, which has been under a U.N. oil and trade embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, will be allowed to resume oil exports only when UNSCOM certifies that its mass destruction programmes are dismantled.

Mr. Ekeus, who is due to report on Oct. 11 to the U.N. Security Council on how Iraq is complying with disarmament resolutions, left Baghdad for his commission's rear base at Manama after wrapping up a three-day mission here.

"I think we can move forward quickly," he said, adding that the main outstanding issue was to identify the quantities of toxic agents, such as anthrax and a volatile chemical known as VX, produced by Iraq for military purposes.

His team of inspectors also needed to know how much of these agents was left and what could still be used in weapons. "We must ensure that there is no such capability left," he said.

He last visited Baghdad in August after the defection of former Industry Minister General Hussein Kamel, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein and considered the architect of Iraq's advanced weapons programmes.

At those talks he gleaned new information on the size and extent of Iraq's germ, nuclear and ballistic missiles programmes, after Baghdad accused Gen. Kamel of concealing the data.

Mr. Ekeus' deputy, Charles Dueffler, said earlier this month that Baghdad had revealed new germ warfare sites and also admitted to carrying out a live test of a Scud missile armed with a chemical warhead before the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Dueffler said the U.N. monitoring systems would have to be revised in the light of the new information.

Mr. Ekeus met Saturday with Mr. Aziz. The meeting was attended by Oil Minister Amer Rasheed, according to Iraqi radio.

General Rasheed was until his appointment in June as presidential adviser on Iraq's Military Industries Organisation, which runs the weapons programmes, and Mr. Ekeus separately met him twice since he arrived in the Iraqi capital on Friday.

U.N. officials believe Iraq, despite handing over tens of thousands of documents, video tapes, computer disks and microfilm on its weapons programmes last month, was

withholding vital data.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted Mr. Ekeus as saying after he met Gen. Rasheed on Saturday that he was "happy with the outcome of the talks."

It said Friday the Swedish disarmament expert was in Baghdad to "evaluate the developments of the last few months to prepare a report for the U.N. Security Council on Iraq's implementation of U.N. resolutions."

Mr. Ekeus reaffirmed to reporters after flying in to Bahrain from Detroit that Iraq had given him "strong assurances" that it would revise its policy of concealing information from U.N. inspectors and take "a more open attitude."

The Swedish disarmament expert said he was reassured by the "large amount of new information" he had received.

He said that the report he will submit to the U.N. Security Council Oct. 11 will

"contain a large amount of information on the data that Iraq hid from the inspection teams."

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq's new attitude was "a positive step" which would "serve as a plus point in the Security Council report."

COLUMN

U.S. jet lands at wrong European airport

WASHINGTON (R) — A Northwest Airlines jet bound for Frankfurt, Germany, from Detroit landed by mistake in Belgium early this month. The Washington Post reported in Sunday's edition. The newspaper said the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) office in Brussels and European officials were investigating the Sept. 5 incident. They said the DC-10 was never in any danger. So far the inquiry had traced a trail of missed opportunities to redirect the flight, including the reluctance of flight attendants to contact the cockpit crew when they and the 241 passengers clearly saw the path the plane was taking on electronic map displays in the cabin, the Post said. The newspaper quoted a source close to the investigation as saying:

"The only people on that plane who didn't know where they were were the three guys up front." A Northwest Airlines spokesman told the Post the captain, first officer and flight engineer had been grounded pending the outcome of the investigation. He said they faced disciplinary action ranging from reprimand to dismissal.

Brazilia phones shut down in cellular sale

BRASILIA (R) — The telephone system in Brazil's capital was paralysed Saturday as would-be cellular subscribers overwhelmed it with calls, broadcast reports said. Dial tones were rare and connections almost impossible as the state-run Telebrasilia system struggled to deal with callers trying to get one of 19,000 cellular subscriptions. The company had prepared to receive 1,800 subscriber calls an hour but instead was flooded with 40,000 calls an hour, private CBN Radio reported. The system could not handle the load and half the telephones in the capital of Latin America's biggest country were out of service. "This situation is not going to normalise itself until the calls fall off," a company spokesman told Globo Television. Telebrasilia estimates there is pent-up demand for 100,000 cellular telephones in the capital. Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso has made reforming the state telephone system by opening it to private capital a priority of his economic reforms.

Britain switches to metric for packaged foods

LONDON (AP) — Britain went metric Sunday, heedng orders from European Union officials to use the metric system for all packaged foods. Many supermarkets have already abandoned the old British imperial system of pounds and ounces, providing plastic conversion cards and post conversion charts at the meat counter to ease the transition. Any merchant who fails to adapt can be fined £1,000, or about \$1,500. The government has emphasised what won't change: Pint glasses of beer in pubs, pint bottles of milk delivered at the doorstep and mile markers on roads will still be a part of British life. Stores can keep weighing out loose items by the pound and ounce through the end of the decade. There are concerns that stores will take advantage of the situation by slyly nudging prices higher as they perform the conversion. It will be hard for consumers to figure things out unless they know exactly what the old price was and bring a calculator with them.

Ministry promises 'fair' ruling in row over tissue paper

By Ghalia Alul

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special committee set up by the Ministry of Supply will issue its decision today or tomorrow on the pricing of second-grade tissue paper, but it is not yet clear whether its ruling will end the dispute between the ministry and tissue paper producers over the latter's demand to sacrifice their souls in defence of the Arab character and identity of the Holy City.

The same group held a meeting in Amman on Sept. 29 attended by more than 300 people from 11 governorates in addition to Parliament members to reiterate their opposition of the peace accords and to hear the reading of a communiqué described as "for protecting the homeland and confronting normalisation."

Islamic Action Front (IAF) Party Secretary General Ishaq Al Farhan read out at the press conference that meeting's final communiqué.

Among other things the communiqué admitted that many ideological and political differences existed among opposition parties, especially over the concept of "just peace." But it stressed that all the parties were in agreement on the minimum level of common ground, particularly in opposing any moves in Jordan towards normalisation with Israel as well as "protection of the home-

land."

The communiqué voiced the opposition parties' call on "leaders of the masses" in Arab states for support and to pave the way for holding a pan-Arab conference on opposing the normalisation of Arab relations with Israel.

The parties passed a number of resolutions. One of them called on Arab countries to express solidarity with Syria and Lebanon in their rejection of what they called the Zionist-imperialist conditions for a settlement.

Another resolution called for a rejection of the Tabar accord between Israel and the Palestine National Authority "in form and in content," while another called on the "masses" to confront government projects that open the way for Israel's participation in them or allow the sale of property to the Jewish state.

The communiqué also condemned the cancellation of

Lyon cars torched after suspect killed

LYON, France (Agencies) — Unknown attackers burned 23 vehicles around the central French city of Lyon overnight after police killed an Algerian-born man suspected of links to a wave of bombings, police said on Sunday.

Police kept up tight nationwide security against possible guerrilla attacks even though the government said that 24-year-old Khaled Kelkal, shot dead on Friday night, was believed to have been involved in the entire rash of attacks.

Twelve vehicles were torched in the eastern suburb of Vaulx-en-Velin, Kelkal's home town. Others were set ablaze in nearby areas including Saint-Priest and Venissieux. No one was arrested.

But he said he recognised the increase in the production cost and said the committee's decision would aim at protecting the interest of the producers, the consumers and the country.

"We do not want to be unfair to the producers, but we also do not want to put extra burdens on the consumers," he said.

He said the committee studied the rise in raw material prices and its decision will be "fair."

Producers who talked to the Jordan Times appeared firm in their demands but were tight-lipped about the action they will take if the ministry turned them down.

One factory, the Arab Sanitary Paper Converting Company (Soft), has stopped production and laid off its employees, saying that its operations were no longer feasible after the rise of raw material cost and the refusal of the ministry to float the prices.

The price of second-grade tissue paper is fixed by the Cabinet while that of first-grade products is floated.

If that happens, "we will abide by what the Ministry of

Supply does," he added. "He minimises our value and alienates us."

This was not the first time Mr. Rabin upset U.S. Jews. Shortly after his election in 1992, he ignited anger by advising pro-Israel lobbyists in Washington that the Jewish state needed them less than before.

Floating the price of second-grade products will allow for competition which will lead to improvement in the quality of tissue papers.

Asked if his arrest meant that France was now safer, Mr. Debre said in a television interview late on Saturday: "Let's not seek the degree of this threat. It exists, it remains."

He said that an emergency civil protection plan that has mobilised 20,000 police and 2,800 troops would stay in effect for as long as necessary.

But the Journal du Dimanche newspaper said that investigators felt that Mr. Debre had gone too far in linking Kelkal to some other attacks, including one in the

Paris underground train that killed seven people and injured 92 on July 25.

"These techniques for making explosives are very widespread and, according to their information, several other groups are in operation," it said. Investigators believe the attacks are linked to extremists in Algeria.

Militants say France backs Algeria's military-led government, which they are fighting to overthrow. An estimated 30,000 people have died in violence since Algerian authorities scrapped 1992 elections the fundamentalists were poised to win.

Kelkal was shot by elite commandos Friday night after a two-day manhunt involving nearly 800 police in woods outside Lyon. He had been sought since August after his fingerprints were found on a bomb left on the train tracks on the Paris-Lyon express.

On Saturday Mr. Debre said there were indications that Kelkal was linked to at least one other of the wave of attacks which hit France over the last two months.

But senior police officials doubt Kelkal was anywhere near the heart of a terrorist network coordinating the terrorism wave.

In particular they are sceptical that Kelkal could have been involved in the most murderous attack of all: the July 23 bombing of Saint Michel RER station in central Paris.

One police source said of Kelkal: "There is no doubt that he was extremely dangerous but he wasn't a major terrorist. He was just a petty criminal who moved into a different field of activity."

Key establishment figures warned Sunday that his death risks being seen as a martyrdom.

(Continued on page 7)